

## Prince Hassan departs for talks in U.K., France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday left for working visits to Britain and France where he will hold talks with government leaders on current efforts to find a diplomatic solution for the Iraq-U.N. crisis and to help remove obstacles in the path of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

In London, Prince Hassan is scheduled to meet British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, whose country is the current president of the European Union, to discuss ways to contain the Iraqi-U.N. crisis and ward off a military strike that could bring about further suffering to the Iraqi people.

In Paris, Prince Hassan is expected to hold talks with French President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine on the Iraqi crisis and diplomatic solutions for the problem.

Prince Hassan's talks with the French government will also focus on the Middle East peace process and efforts to give momentum to efforts aimed for a just and comprehensive peace.

Prince Hassan's visits are in the course of His Majesty King Hussein's ongoing efforts and Jordanian intensive contacts with different nations to defuse the Iraqi crisis in a manner that would secure the full implementation of U.N. resolutions and offer the Iraqi people hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Prince Hassan will also discuss with British and French officials bilateral relations with each of the two countries.

Prince Hassan was seen off at the airport by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah and Faisal, Prince Abdullatif Abdul Salam Majali, speakers of Parliament, Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khawassneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Prince Ali Ben Nayeef and other officials in addition to the British and French ambassadors to Jordan.

**By Samir Ghawi**  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordan's economy should grow by eight per cent to ensure that the unemployment rate does not rise, a senior World Bank official said Tuesday.

According to John MacGregor, World Bank country officer for Jordan, the labour force is growing at 3.4 per cent annually, and if the factor of women entering the workforce is to be taken into consideration, the rate goes up to as high as five per cent.

"To accommodate this growth, the gross domestic product (GDP) should grow at no less than eight per cent" Mr. MacGregor said during a seminar held by Jemstone Network, a project launched by the European Union (EU) to upgrade media performance in the Middle East since 1995.

Mr. MacGregor saw stability as the platform on which, along with economic growth, employability as the major and main concern that threatens the economic success that the Kingdom has attained over the past few years.

The senior World Bank official admitted that the small size of Jordan could be a detriment to large-scale companies seeking to set up business in the region but he pointed out that Jordan should be seen as a base from which foreign investors can expand in the region.

Asked why Jordan should join the World Trade Organization (WTO), sign a partnership agreement with the EU and adopt other international measures and refrain from adopting a worldwide system of tying wages to inflation, Mr. MacGregor said that such a link would be disastrous for the country. He did not elaborate but he was understood by analysts to be referring to the

Mr. MacGregor admitted that the distribution of wealth in Jordan was not balanced but hoped such an imbalance would be rectified in the future.

He refused to admit that the economic reform in the Kingdom was a total success until there is feedback declaring the man in the street is benefiting from reform. "We're beginning to get positive signals," he indicated.

The seminar, coordinated with the World Bank, was launched by Jemstone Director Tudor Lomas on Sunday and is being attended by around 20 participants from various Mideast countries.

Participants will be leaving Wednesday to Aqaba to take a close look at the area designated as a free zone before closing the seminar on Thursday.

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinians said Tuesday they expect Washington to

present a new plan to revive the stalled peace process with Israel, amid reports of top-level secret meetings between the two sides.

"The Americans told us today that the American peace team will today present (U.S. Secretary of State) Madeleine Albright with the official American initiative to resume the peace process," said chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"We hope that the American administration will base its initiative on the basis of signed peace agreements," he said in Ramallah, where the Palestinian Legislative Council was meeting.

Mr. Erekat said he did not have details of the U.S. proposal by the team led by U.S. Middle East special envoy Dennis Ross, but added that he was told by the U.S. officials it would be announced within two weeks.

Israeli media reported Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held secret talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's close aides in a bid to revive peace talks as Washington steps up the pressure for progress after 11 months of deadlock.

Mr. Netanyahu held a lengthy meeting with Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian Legislative Council Chair-

ed. "Recently there has been a secret channel for talks between Netanyahu and his assistants and several high officials in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) who act with Mr. Arafat's cognisance," the paper said.

It said U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration has told both sides that "should Israel and the Palestinians not reach an agreement within a week or two, the Americans will come out with a plan of their own for the territories," Yediot said.

Asked about the contacts, Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Radio: "I'm not in the habit of divulging information about such contacts but it is obvious that Israel is sparing no effort to try to promote peace with the Palestinians."

Israeli officials believe the United States wants rapid progress in the peace process in a bid to rally Arab support for a threatened U.S. attack against Iraq over the U.N. weapons inspections crisis.

Negotiations have been deadlocked since mid-March mainly because of Israel's settlement drive in the occupied territories and its refusal to carry out scheduled troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Washington has proposed a step-by-step pullback from

insists any further withdrawals must be accompanied by Palestinian action to crack down on anti-Israeli militants.

Chief Israeli negotiator Danny Naveh is due to meet Mr. Erekat on Wednesday, in the presence of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Ned Walker. Israeli officials said.

The meeting follows talks between Mr. Naveh and Mr. Erekat at the U.S. State Department last week, which failed to produce any concrete progress, a result the Palestinian cabinet blamed on "Israeli intransigence."

Mohammad Zaid, spokesman for the Arab-Israeli party United Arab List, said Mr. Netanyahu had asked the party to send a verbal message to Mr. Arafat indicating "his willingness to forge ahead with an accord, particularly at the level of the joint Israel-Palestinian committees."

The joint committees are tasked with implementing technical aspects of the autonomy accords including the opening of an airport and seaport in the Gaza Strip and the creation of a safe passage corridor between the West Bank and Gaza.

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ PROMISED Tuesday to make a success of any peace mission to Baghdad by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, as Russia said Iraq was now ready to end the arms crisis by complying with all U.N. resolutions.

But while Iraq struck a conciliatory note, U.S. President Bill Clinton said Tuesday the United States was "prepared to act" militarily against Iraq if needed and voiced confidence it should achieve its goals.

"Let there be no doubt: we are prepared to act," Mr. Clinton said in a 30-minute speech at the Pentagon following meetings with top military commanders.

Mr. Clinton said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had broken pledges made in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war to give a full accounting of his capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction.

"We are determined to see that we make good on his own promise," Mr. Clinton said to warm applause in an auditorium packed with generals and admirals, but also lower ranking members of all the military services who stood in the aisles to hear him speak.

The president stressed Washington considered diplomacy the ideal way to resolve the standoff with Iraq, but stressed the United States would accept nothing less than unqualified compliance by Baghdad with U.N. arms inspections.

"A diplomatic solution must

could be used to confiscate weapons or the means of producing them.

President Saddam met with the country's two most powerful bodies, the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party, to discuss the four-month standoff with U.N. arms inspectors.

"Iraq will make serious and legitimate efforts to ensure that a visit by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is a success," an Iraqi government spokesman said after the meeting.

"Iraq hopes that Kofi Annan will come with an open mind and free will and in a situation that will enable him to reach a balanced political solution," the spokesman said.

Arab diplomats in the Middle East said Mr. Annan could travel to Baghdad on Friday with a peace formula if he receives the go-ahead from the Security Council, which was to hold a second meeting Tuesday to decide on the mission.

The key proposal before the five permanent council members is for diplomats from their respective countries to supervise or accompany U.N. inspectors entering sensitive sites in Iraq that Baghdad has said are off-limits.

This means Baghdad would have to drop any demands for a 60-day time limit on the inspections.

But there appeared to be continuing differences among the

sites.

The United States insists on the primacy of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), which for the past seven years has been neutralising Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

A Chinese source said of the U.S. position: "I don't think that is a proper idea."

Russia, which has been spearheading efforts to find a peaceful solution, said Iraq was now ready to meet all the international community's demands to allow the resumption of U.N. weapons inspections.

"The political mission has to produce results, and the essence of this political mission is for the unconditional compliance by Iraq with U.N. resolutions," said Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

"And according to our information [Iraq] is ready to do this," added Mr. Primakov, who was speaking from Greece to the Russian television station RTR.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng gave an added push to efforts for a diplomatic solution by issuing a statement after talks in Moscow opposing the use of force against Iraq.

And French President Jacques Chirac, who held talks in Paris with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sabhat Tuesday, urged Mr. Annan to go to Baghdad to broker a diplomatic solution.

Clinton, warning that time is running out, said the U.N. is

Britain, which has backed U.S. threats of military action to make President Saddam give unconditional cooperation to U.N. weapons inspectors, also took a positive approach to an Annan mission.

"It is very probable that Kofi will go, and go this week. We want to explore every diplomatic avenue for a solution," said British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, while insisting on full Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions.

"If it helps Saddam for UNSCOM — the U.N. weapons inspectorate — to be accompanied by diplomats, that's something we could look at," he said.

Mr. Cook was referring to French proposals for a formula to allow inspections of Iraq's so-called presidential sites.

Mr. Annan on Sunday sent a mapping team to survey the eight presidential sites which Iraq has ruled out of bounds to inspectors from the UNSCOM on disarming Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Tuesday that Mr. Annan could not simply come as a "messenger," he needed a mandate to negotiate.

"Finding a solution means talking, listening and making compromises, balanced compromises," he said at a joint press conference with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin

the secretary general, Mr. Annan, to carry a message," added Aziz.

The United States continued its military build-up in the Gulf on Tuesday.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen has signed a deployment order that will troop between 5,000 and 6,000 troops to Kuwait, bringing the number of U.S. ground troops deployed to defend the emirate to around 10,000.

On Tuesday, the first batch of Australian troops sent to a possible overseas conflict since the Vietnam war also left for Kuwait.

But Bahrain, home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, said it had not authorized the United States to launch attacks on Iraq from its territory.

Bahraini Information Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Al Mutawa announced Tuesday.

The decision leaves Kuwait as the sole Gulf Arab country to openly support U.S. threats to strike Iraq if it fails to grant unconditional access to U.N. weapons inspectors.

"Bahrain believes in the need for a diplomatic solution to the crisis between Iraq" and the UNSCOM, in charge of its disarmament, Mr. Mutawa said.

He said the Gulf emirate, following the example of its influential neighbour Saudi Arabia, "has not given its authorisation for its territory to be used for any military action against Iraq."

**De Klerk is to divorce his wife**

**JOHANNESBURG** — South African apartheid prevalent here, De Klerk, 60, is to divorce his nearly 39-year-old wife, who is the wealthy wife of a shipping tycoon, it was said Sunday. The statement did not say whether he planned to sue his wealthy Georgiouas, with whom he has been having affairs for several years. His lawyers have previously admitted to attempting to end the affair — they met each other for two years — but her pulled them together.

**Scoreless to Present Oscars**

**BEVERLY HILLS** — Director Al Scoreless will be one of celebrities handing out coveted Oscar statues during the upcoming Academy Awards on March 23, officials from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced. Scoreless joined by actresses Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, Frances McDormand, Madonna, as well as Denzel Washington, Geena Davis and George Clooney Jr. and Chevy Chase in handing out awards, official said.

**Bardot wants private burial — with her dog**

**PARIS (AFP)** — There will be no public plenary for the French actress Jeanne Moreau at Tropez cemetery where she died last week, when she dies. In the film star tunnel rights campaigner can be buried at home with her dogs "I would like to rest at home," she says in the paper. The new and old Saint-Tropez cemetery have never laid out, the 83-year-old actress interview published weekly Paris-Match.

**Newman to play Costner's father**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Paul Newman will play Paul Newman's father in upcoming romance titled "Maverick & Butte." Directed by Michael Crichton, Newman Daily Variety first reported. Newman came into the picture along with Sandra Bullock and fellow film stars Gene Hackman.

**Switzerland goes to pot**

**BERNE (AFP)** — Sixty per cent of all Swiss tried marijuana at least once in their lives, according to survey published by the weekly Sonntag magazine. The figure was higher among young people, with 70 per cent of those aged between 18 and 34 admitting to have experimented with drugs. Altogether 82 per cent of respondents declared themselves in favour of legal cannabis consumption, the newspaper added. It also published a list of Swiss telephone numbers for drug addicts.

**Bar owner pleads not guilty in smoking case**

**AUBURN (AP)** — Call case of a smoking ban, Bill Carver, 70-year-old bar owner, pleaded not guilty charges that he broke tough new California banning smoking in bars. Bill Carver, who owns the Roseville lounge in Roseville, should not be fined or punished what he does.

### Suspect in pharmacist murders arrested

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police are questioning a man in connection with the killing of a pharmacist and the injury of another in two separate attacks on two pharmacies in Amman on Feb. 3, according to official sources. An official told the Jordan Times that the suspect, who was arrested in Amman on Tuesday, might be also responsible for the murder of a 50-year-old Sri Lankan domestic helper, who was found shot dead on Feb. 5 in Jabal Weibdeh. According to the official source, police seized a gun with the suspect, which is believed to be the same one used in the Feb. 3 killing of pharmacist Farouq Malhas, owner of Wadi Nasser Pharmacy and the injury of pharmacist Abed Ali, the owner of Dalila Pharmacy in Jabal Taj. Furthermore, the source maintained that the suspect's fingerprints also matched the ones found in both pharmacies. Police refused to identify the suspect and said they were still questioning him.



## South Lebanon truce panel meets to review complaints of violations

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a truce in south Lebanon met here Tuesday to consider complaints of alleged ceasefire violations filed by Lebanon and Israel.

The panel convened at the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping force in this town near the Israeli border, sources close to the Lebanese delegation said.

Lebanon filed three complaints over Israeli shelling since Friday, which wound-

ed one Lebanese civilian and damaged several houses, as well as the dynamiting of a house in south Lebanon by the Israeli army.

Israel lodged four complaints over Katyusha rockets which slammed Saturday into the Galilee pan-handle in northern Israel and the buffer zone occupied by Israel in south Lebanon, where five Lebanese civilians were wounded.

The Israeli complaints also concerned the detonation of a roadside bomb at the Kfar Houna crossing at the edge of the border area on Sunday which left one Lebanese civilian wounded.

The international committee monitoring the April 1996 ceasefire agreement is composed of representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and the United States.

Under the terms of the accord, Israel and the Shiite

Muslim Hizbollah militia agreed to avoid attacking civilians on either side of the border or launch attacks from civilian-inhabited areas.

Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to oust Israel from the occupied border zone in southern Lebanon which Israel set up in 1985 to protect its northern territories from cross-border attack.



DESTROYED WITHOUT COURT ORDER: Palestinian Anwar Nabulsi, standing Tuesday in his partly demolished house in an east Jerusalem neighbourhood, displays a court order to stop the demolition because the case was still pending in the courts. Israeli municipality workers with heavy police protection started to destroy the house before they were stopped by Mr. Nabulsi who came back with the order (AFP photo)

## Algerian security forces kill more than 80 extremists

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian security forces have killed more than 80 armed Islamists in a series of operations over the past three days, press reports said Tuesday.

The main focus of the security sweeps was the

area around the towns of Tlemcen, Sidi Belabes and Saïda — all west of Algiers — where some 69 extremists were shot dead, the reports said.

The area has witnessed brutal massacres of civilians by suspected Islamists,

the most recent on Saturday, when 29 people were killed in Tamesna, near Saïda.

Another 12 armed militants were killed in four separate clashes with security forces outside Algiers.

## Palestinian council urges Iraq to abide by U.N. resolutions

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian Legislative Council Tuesday called on Iraq to abide by U.N. resolutions on disarmament but said the crisis should be resolved without recourse to military action.

"We warn against the consequences of resorting to a military option, which will threaten the whole area and stability in general, and the peace process in particular," the council said in a statement after a special session on the four-month standoff over U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq.

"We also call on all countries and the permanent members of the Security Council not to give legitimacy to a strike on Iraq," it said.

The United States has warned it will launch air strikes if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fails to give U.N. inspectors full and unfettered access to sites suspected of housing banned weapons.

Palestinian Legislative Council Chairman Ahmad Khatib told reporters afterwards that the body called on Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions, but added that "everybody else should do so too" in a reference to Israel.

The council said it called on the U.S. and the international community "to firmly implement the resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Monday he had sent two letters to President Hussein, urging him to obey the U.N. resolutions but expressing hope for a peaceful solution.

The Palestinians, who openly backed Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war, have accused the United States of being tough against President Hussein while failing to pressure Israel to implement U.S.-backed peace accords.

## Four Egyptian militants executed

CAIRO (AFP) — Four Islamists from the Egyptian Gamaa Islamiya armed group were hanged Tuesday, police said.

Hossam Mohammad Khamis Nueir, Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al Sayyed, Mohammad Mustafa Ismail and Mohammad Fawzi Ibrahim were executed at

dawn at a prison in Cairo, said police.

They were all sentenced to death on Sept. 15 last year by a military court at Hukstep, north of Cairo, for their involvement in a series of armed attacks in 1994 and 1995 — including the murder of an anti-terrorism general.

Ibrahim was alleged to be the leader of the Gamaa in Suez, and had already been sentenced to death in another trial in 1995.

More than 100 people have been sentenced to death by Egyptian military and high state security courts since 1992 and more than 60 have been executed.

## Palestinian students march in support of Iraq, burn flags

BETHLEHEM (R) — Hundreds of Palestinian students marched in support of Iraq in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Tuesday in defiance of a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) ban.

"Oh Saddam our dear, hit Tel Aviv. Oh Saddam our dear, hit with chemicals," about 900 university students and schoolchildren chanted.

The students burned the U.S. and Israeli flags, shouting "Death to America, death to Israel."

Witnesses said dozens of Palestinians police armed with AK-47 assault rifles erected metal barriers to prevent them from marching to Rachel's Tomb. The shrine, guarded by Israeli soldiers, has been the scene of clashes in the past.

The witnesses said Israel had increased the number of soldiers at the tomb on Tuesday.

Israeli troops wounded 14 Arabs, including three policemen, in Bethlehem last week during another pro-Iraq march

when they opened fire with rubber-coated metal bullets.

"Join us in our demonstration for precious Iraq. Enough sanctions, enough starvation," the students shouted Tuesday.

Ghazi Al Jabali, the PNA police chief in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, banned pro-Iraqi demonstrations after President Saddam Hussein to launch missiles at Israel in several large demonstrations.

"Ghazi Jabali, you're a coward and an agent of the Americans," the schoolchildren chanted.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has seized on the protests to question the Palestinian commitment to peace with the Jewish state.

Bethlehem University officials had tried to press the students to cancel the march after Israel's military chief in the West Bank town urged his Palestinian counterpart to ban it to avoid clashes with Israeli soldiers.

"Do not be upset Iraq, we will be your guerrillas if you want," the students shouted.

Some held pro-Iraqi banners reading "Save Iraqi children."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and PNA officials have urged Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions on weapons inspections but have also said they oppose a U.S. strike on Baghdad.

A poll released on Monday showed most Palestinians supported Iraq because they sympathized with ordinary Iraqis and rejected U.S. policy in the region.

About two-thirds of Palestinians polled said they expected the United States to attack Iraq. Nearly 80 per cent said they would support an Iraqi missile attack on Israel in the case of a U.S. strike.

The United States and Britain have threatened to strike Iraq if it does not give U.N. weapons inspectors access to sites suspected of containing materials for weapons of mass destruction.

## Syria opposed to any partition of Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said in remarks published Tuesday that Syria would oppose any partition of Iraq as the result of a U.S. military strike on the country.

"Syria has always opposed a partition of Iraq and has also supported the territorial integrity and unity of its people," Syrian newspapers quoted the foreign minister as saying.

Syria took part in the multi-

He condemned a threatened U.S. strike on Iraq as "illegal" and said it would "not serve the interests of the United States but only those of Israel."

The United States and Britain have threatened to use force against Iraq unless it opens presidential palaces suspected of harbouring weapons of mass destruction to U.N. arms inspectors.

Syria took part in the multi-

national force that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991, but Mr. Sharaa said the situation now was "different" as the dispute merely concerned the make-up of U.N. inspection teams and not the invasion of another country.

Arab diplomatic sources here said Syria was concerned about the "anarchy or confusion" that would be caused by a U.S. attack, and was particularly worried a Kurdish state

may be set up in northern Iraq.

Syrian leaders also believe that any attack would effectively end the Arab-Israeli peace process and damage American interests in the region, said the sources.

The newspaper of the ruling Ba'ath Party, Al Baath, on Tuesday described American threats of military action against Iraq as "at the very least obstinate, incomprehensible and totally unjustified."

## Iran reassures Israel it has no hostile intentions — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Iran has reassured Israel that it has no hostile intentions towards the Jewish state after accusations against Tehran by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a newspaper said Tuesday.

"Iran is not Iraq and would never attack Israel," Ahmad Jalali, Iranian ambassador to UNESCO, said in a secret meeting Monday with Israeli

Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, according to the Yediot Aharonot newspaper.

Mr. Jalili met Mr. Bakshi-Doron, who emigrated to Israel from Iran, at an international conference in Morocco of Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders.

Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly said that Iran is as much a threat as Iraq, and on Sunday accused the Islamic

Republic of developing "ballistic missiles, biological weapons and nuclear weapons without any interference."

Mr. Bakshi-Doron also met late into the night Monday with Morocco's King Hassan II to ask him to use his influence to help bring progress in the stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Yediot said.

As a moderate Arab country in favour of warm Israeli-Arab ties, Morocco has not sent any ministers to Israel in a display of its displeasure over his right-wing policies that Arabs say have stalled the peace process.

## Rafsanjani to make landmark visit to Saudi

RIYADH (R) — Iran's former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will visit Saudi Arabia this week in another sign of closer ties between the Gulf's two heavyweights, an Iranian diplomat said Tuesday.

"He [Rafsanjani] is coming from Saturday for 10 days. It is an official visit," said Khamis Safi, first secretary at the Iranian embassy in Riyadh. "Discussions will centre on mutual ties," he said, but declined to elaborate.

Mr. Safi said Mr. Rafsanjani — who heads Iran's powerful

policy-making expediency council — will be accompanied by Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Ayatollah Mohajerani.

He said Mr. Rafsanjani would meet Saudi King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence Minister Prince Sultan. He would also perform a minor pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca.

Relations between Tehran and Riyadh, two of the world's top oil producers, have been tense since Shiite

Islamist clergymen toppled the Iranian monarchy in 1979.

Diplomatic relations were severed from 1988 to 1991 after more than 400 people, mostly Iranians, died in riots during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

They were restored after the 1991 Gulf war, in which Iran remained neutral over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and have warmed further since the election in May of Mr. Rafsanjani's successor, Mohammad Khatami, seen as a moderate cleric keen on improving his country's relations with its

neighbours.

Saudi Arabia remains the main ally of the United States in the Gulf, while Washington has sought to isolate the Islamic Republic, charging it with sponsoring international terrorism, threatening the Middle East peace process and developing weapons of mass destruction. Iran denies the charges.

Senior Gulf sources say the growing role of King Fahd's designated heir, Prince Abdullah, in Saudi affairs had led Riyadh to edge closer to Tehran.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
16:10 .....Mr. Bogus  
16:30 French Cartoon Films  
17:00 .....Ashuaia  
18:00 Children's Programme  
.....The Finder  
18:30 Drama — Neighbours  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Doc. — E-M6  
19:30 .....News headlines  
19:35 .....Campus Cops  
20:00 Hollywood Remembers  
21:10 .....Drama — Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 Mini-series — The Beast (Pt. II)  
22:59 .....Country Music

### PRAYER TIMES

04:54 .....Fajr  
06:12 .....(Sunrise)Duha  
11:50 .....Dhuhr  
14:58 .....Asr  
17:27 .....Maghreb  
18:45 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifef, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 667157  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
A cold air mass is expected to affect the Kingdom today and last until Friday. Clouds will build up and rain will fall over all areas. Winds will be westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moder-

ate becoming southerly moderate in the afternoon, and seas rough.

Amman .....04/14  
Aqaba .....10/21  
Deserts .....03/15  
Jordan Valley .....09/20

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 15, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 85 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
Dr. Afif Shukri .....898863  
Dr. Nidal Dahleh .....827195  
Dr. Yousef Naser .....751144  
Dr. Hanna Mansour .....750197  
Firas pharmacy .....890280  
Ferdows pharmacy .....637055  
Al Asena pharmacy .....649455  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Nairokh pharmacy .....623672  
Najib pharmacy .....774111  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir .....278770  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Yousef Harzallah .....988075  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 566111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192 621111  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints .....5605800  
Price Complaints .....5661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 5661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....5680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200  
HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 566727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 5666126/37  
Al-Abil, Abdali .....5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....5674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111  
FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44(53250).

Other Flights  
05:50 .....Bucharest (RO)  
09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:15 Doha, Al Hudaiah (IY)  
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
10:50 .....Kuwait (KU)  
13:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
13:25 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:45 .....Khartoum (add) (RJ)  
13:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:30 .....Algiers (AH)  
16:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:30 .....Athens (OA)  
23:15 .....London (BA)  
23:30 .....London, Beirut (BA)  
23:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
Royal Wings (RW)  
07:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
DEPARTURES  
08:25 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
09:30 .....Istanbul, Rome (RJ)  
10:40 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
20:00 .....Colombo (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bombay (RJ)

20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:30 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:00 .....Cairo (RJ)  
21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
00:55 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
00:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
01:55 .....Bucharest (RO)  
06:35 .....Larnaca (CY)  
08:00 .....Beirut (ME)  
08:25 .....London (BA)  
10:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
11:15 Al Hudaiah, Aden (IY)  
12:00 .....Kuwait (KU)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
14:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
14:20 .....Sharjah (AH)  
15:15 .....Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
15:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
15:30 .....Doha (QR)  
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
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17:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:50 .....Aqaba (RW)





**By Ahmad Khatib**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

Mr. Tal also said the PPD, an independent body working under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information, does not discriminate between local or foreign media in the application of the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

Many Jordanian correspondents of foreign newspapers have long complained of double standards

responsibilities," he said. "But we do not possess the means to do so and there is no cooperation between us and the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC)."

Mr. Tal denied claims that the PPD had closed down any of the country's 534 presses.

He also stressed the need for introducing a new press law that guarantees profes-

and laser discs gave permission for the entry of over 71,000 such products in 1997.

The legal affairs section also authorised the publication of nearly 25,000 newspapers and magazines during the same year.

In addition, the department issued 160 books documenting various aspects of Jordan's political and social life.

JD1,000 be paid in advance, but they consented to provide treatment without the advance payment. He said the child's father, who is poor and cannot cover the cost of treatment, had raised the question with Prince Ra'd, who promised to raise the question of payment with the concerned authorities.

According to the child's family, the police are still investigating the case and searching for the assailant.

**By Ahmed Naser**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

Some cancer activists have complained that the government was not doing enough to support cancer research and treatment.

Deputy Hazem Monjani said the group was impressed with the level of services and care accorded to the children and expressed appreciation of the foster mothers and other institutional employees.

**By Rana Husseini**  
*Los Angeles Times Staff Reporter*

The proposed increases have enraged many ordinary Jordanians, who are scrambling to find ways to use the money in a better way, like creating projects that could help decrease the number of unemployed," said the woman, who requested anonymity. "A JD550 raise

adons, like nosing banquets for their constituents, helping the poor and contributing to social schemes. Others, who live outside Amman, said they incurred high expenses from travelling to the capital at least twice a week.

**By Fairouz Abu-Ghazale**  
*Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Business Administration, The American University of Beirut*

have changed many ordinary Jordanians, who are scrambling for anonymity. "A JD550 raise

## Announcement

The Church Council of the Jordan Chaplaincy in Amman announces that a **Service of Thanksgiving** for **The Reverend Derrick Hearne** will be held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer (near the Ahliyah School) on **Saturday 21 February at 6 p.m.**

# what's going on

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<p><b>PLAY</b></p> <p>* Children's play "A Theatre Dream" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. daily until Feb. 21).</p>	<p>* German film "Ein fliehendes Pferd" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>* "Pinky" at the American Center. Abdon on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>LECTURE</b></p> <p>* "Rafael Alberti and Al Mutamid of Seville: Two Poets of the Exile" (in Arabic) by Dr. Yunes Shanwan at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>EXHIBITIONS</b></p> <p>* Paintings by Sudanese artist Salah Al Murr at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Feb. 23.</p> <p>* Private collection of Mamdouh Bisharat entitled "A Vision, An Identity" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until March 5 (Tel. 643251). Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists — "The New Collection."</p> <p>* "History of Cartoon Drawings" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Feb. 20.</p> <p>* Works by about a hundred artists from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon and Jordan at Hammurabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Feb. 20 (Tel. 5536098).</p>
<p><b>FILMS</b></p> <p>* Children's film "The Three Little Pigs" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>* Children's film "Treasure Island" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 4:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>* "Impressionisme, le'origines" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m.</p>	



## Yeltsin prescribes belt-tightening for economic health

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin demanded Tuesday lawmakers vote a realistic 1998 budget to build on Russia's modest economic growth, and warned the government it must exercise tight financial discipline or face dismissal.

"I demand a realistic budget this year... We have to use amendments to make this year's budget realistic," Mr. Yeltsin said in a keynote state of the nation speech to lawmakers from both houses of parliament.

The 35-minute televised speech in the Kremlin was dominated by economic issues, with Mr. Yeltsin stressing the need for the state to "live within its means" to ensure further growth.

Mr. Yeltsin, 67, dressed in a dark blue suit and red patterned tie, spoke with a firm voice throughout the address and appeared reasonably fit.

"The Russian state will continue to defend the market economy, stop inflation and continue on the course to stabilise the ruble. But today this is not sufficient."

"We need stable and quality growth based on a powerful influx of investment. We need strong order in state finances," Mr. Yeltsin said.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais said the budget amendments Mr. Yeltsin spoke of would not affect the fundamentals of federal expenditure, revenue and the deficit, Interfax reported.

The budget has already passed three readings in the

lower house, the State Duma, and is due to have its final reading Wednesday, before going to the upper house and Mr. Yeltsin's for approval.

It has been held up by opposition amendments which have attempted to ease tight spending restrictions.

Last year the government was forced to revise its spending targets because of poor tax collection, which saw it raise only around 60 per cent of planned revenues.

Mr. Yeltsin warned the government it must look for extra savings to meet its budget targets, and said he would not tolerate any repetition of last year's accumulation of wage arrears. He also stressed the need to adopt a new tax code without delay, aimed at overhauling Russia's complex and punitive tax system.

"It is only the adoption of a new tax code which will allow us to overcome the

budget crisis and assure economic growth," Mr. Yeltsin said, echoing the advice of major Western investors and creditors such as the International Monetary Fund.

In contrast with his 1997 state of the nation speech, Mr. Yeltsin did not announce any dramatic policy shifts, or warn of imminent government dismissals, but he said the government would be sacked if it failed to meet the tough economic targets.

"If the government is incapable of solving these strategic tasks, we will have another government," he said.

Parliament deputies briefly applauded Mr. Yeltsin after his warning.

The draft budget sets the deficit at 132 billion new rubles (\$22 billion), or 4.7 per cent of gross domestic product. Expenditure is put at 499 billion new rubles (\$83 billion) and revenue at 367 billion new rubles

(\$61 billion).

Russia's GDP grew by 0.4 per cent in 1997, after declining from 1989 to 1996, and Mr. Yeltsin told parliament that "today we are justified in saying that the conditions for growth have been created."

Throughout 1997 the government struggled to clear huge wage arrears to millions of public sector workers, many of whom had gone unpaid for six months or more.

"It is unacceptable for a new debt to citizens to arise... (Prime Minister) Viktor Stepanovich (Chernomyrdin) is personally responsible for the wage situation. We must enter 1998 without a single ruble of wage arrears," Mr. Yeltsin warned.

He also reminded First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais of his role in ensuring wages were paid on time.

Mr. Chubais and fellow market reformer Boris Nemtsov were appointed as first deputy prime ministers after Mr. Yeltsin's state of the nation speech in March 1997, to spearhead a new push in Russia's flagging market reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin said that by mid-May the government must draft a federal programme of state savings, noting that competitive tenders for state orders had already produced a saving of three billion rubles (\$500 million).

He also called for a curb on foreign borrowing, and said Russia's \$10 billion loan from the IMF for 1996-1999 must be the last such credit.

### Yeltsin urges political solution to Chechen problem

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday called for a political solution to Russia's relations with its breakaway republic of Chechnya, during a keynote address to both houses of parliament.

"We can only untie this knot through joint efforts," the president said, stressing the need to avoid hasty decisions and urging patience.

Ten days ago Chechnya's leaders suspended peace talks with Moscow, accusing Russia of failing to fulfil its pledges under a treaty signed last May and of blockading the devastated North Caucasus republic.

Tens of thousands of people died in the conflict which raged from December 1994 to August 1996, and culminated in humiliation for the Russian army at the hands of Chechen separatist guerrillas, who recaptured the capital Grozny in a lightning assault.

## Embattled Cambodian MP stands firm on coup comments

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A senior member of Cambodia's parliament, facing disciplinary action for describing the ousting of co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh as a "coup," vowed Tuesday to continue using the word regardless of the consequences.

Son Soubert, parliament's second deputy chairman, said he would not apologise for his remarks which he believed to be true and covered under parliamentary privilege.

"The people did not elect me to sit (in parliament) and lie," he said in a statement released by his office.

"I still believe that whenever the losers of an election use military force to seize power from the winner, it is a coup d'état. And

I think that the coup makers... are the ones who should be making apologies and not me."

Prince Ranariddh, whose royalist FUNCINPEC party narrowly won the historic 1993 U.N.-brokered elections, was effectively ousted in fierce fighting in July by powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose Cambodian People's Party finished second in the polls.

Mr. Soubert fled the country fearing persecution after the fighting and returned only last month. He caused an uproar in parliament last Tuesday when he termed the prince's ousting a "coup."

After heated exchanges on the floor, a handful of Hun Sen's supporters walked out. Over the past

week calls for Mr. Soubert to apologise for his remarks or resign have grown.

By Tuesday at least three government ministers and more than 30 MPs had signed on to a call demanding that Mr. Soubert renounce his comments or step down from his leadership position.

Acting parliament chief Loy Sim Cheang said Monday he was still trying to work towards a compromise. But he indicated that Mr. Soubert would probably have at least to "clarify" his remarks or face some sort of disciplinary action.

Tuesday Son Soubert stood steadfast, saying the movement against him was a violation of the constitutional right to free expression.

## Burundi's strongman lays out policy goals

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Burundi's military strongman Pierre Buyoya Tuesday said the four priorities of his regime were boosting security, ending a war with Hutu rebels, raising economic production and fighting corruption.

Major Buyoya told a news conference that overall, the security situation in this Central African country with a Hutu majority and Tutsi minority was under control, although it was "disturbed" in some areas around the capital and in the provinces.

Burundi plunged into civil war after army troops assassinated the first elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, in 1993. He had defeated Mr. Buyoya, a Tutsi and also a former military ruler, in free elections earlier that year.

Mr. Buyoya seized back power in July 1996, pledging to put an end to the Hutu rebellion and end a war that has claimed an estimated 200,000 lives, mainly those of civilians.

Mr. Buyoya Tuesday said that the peace process would yield "concrete results" this year.

On the economy, he said the regime would "do everything to avoid famine" even though it has few means at its disposal. The coup that brought him to power led to stringent regional sanctions to force him to restore constitutional order and negotiate with the Hutu extremist rebels.

Nevertheless, in April last year, the embargo was eased to provide Burundi's people with humanitarian aid, seeds and school and building materials.

Mr. Buyoya also said investigations were under way into cases of embezzling of government funds and that indictments had been sought in others.



First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais (left) and his counterpart Boris Nemtsov enter the hall prior to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state of the nation address in the Kremlin (Reuters photo)

## Congo opposition head Tshisekedi in internal exile

KINSHASA (R) — Opposition chief Etienne Tshisekedi has begun a life in forced internal exile in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, his aides said Monday.

The populist opponent of President Laurent Kabila was detained last week and ordered to leave his political base in the capital Kinshasa, where he enjoys a cult following.

Mr. Tshisekedi's home village is in the central Kabeya Kamwanga commune in the diamond-producing Kasai province.

Agriculture Minister Mawampanga Mwana Nanga said Friday Mr. Tshisekedi would be expected to use his leadership qualities to stimulate agricultural production there.

He had been put on a chartered plane, from Kinshasa with a significant quantity of seeds and a mechanised till. Mr. Mawampanga said.

Local newspapers and political allies reported at the weekend and Monday that there was no sign of Mr. Tshisekedi in the commune, but aides later confirmed he had arrived.

"We now have confirmation that he arrived Sunday," Mukendi Wa Mulumba, a top Tshisekedi aide told Reuters.

Mr. Tshisekedi was seized

Thursday and accused by authorities of persistently breaking a ban on politics and creating conditions favourable to an armed attack on the country.

His Union for Democracy and Social Progress party (UDPS) was planning at the weekend to hold a celebration meeting to commemorate the 16th year since the party's creation.

For years Mr. Tshisekedi stood almost alone in opposing veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. But after failing to reach a power-sharing deal with Mr. Kabila, whose forces toppled Mobutu last May, he has been fiercely critical of the new government.

Political leaders at home and abroad have tried to reconcile the two men but senior UDPS activists said Monday that the arrest of their leader effectively marked a total rupture in relations between them and Mr. Kabila's ruling alliance.

Several local newspapers Monday were damning in their reporting of the move to arrest the popular Kinshasa politician.

"They say he is tired, old and incapable of a renaissance, a Mobutist and even mad. Nonetheless the man continues to scare his adversaries," the pro-UDPS reference plus wrote in its Monday editorial.

"It would be unfortunate if the powers-that-be sought to cover up their own failures and incompetence with dubious artifice," it added.

Mr. Tshisekedi's wife, Marthe Kasalu, appealed Monday for her husband's release in a strongly worded letter to local newspapers.

"The move to confine my husband... is contemptible because it comes from hate, jealousy and tribal-ethnic considerations far from the patriotic vision of Mr. Etienne Tshisekedi," she said.

She also called for support from the population to secure his release by "petitions, peaceful marches, sit-ins and prayers."

In a speech to a conference on territorial administration Saturday, Mr. Kabila threatened to wipe out any organisation, or individual disturbing public order and "distracting the population from the task of reconstructing the country."

Mr. Kabila has banned political activity and appealed to all political parties to rally to his alliance government during a two-year transition period.

Small numbers of troops were deployed with masks and teargas to potential trouble spots in town Monday, but there was little sign of significant public protest by UDPS militants who called for Mr. Tshisekedi's release.

## China calls for closer links with Hong Kong courts

BEIJING (AFP) — China's top judicial official Ren Jianxin called Tuesday for closer ties with Hong Kong's courts, Xinhua reported.

In a meeting with Andrew Li, chief justice of Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal, Mr. Ren said exchanges should start between mainland courts

and those in Hong Kong in order to expand knowledge about the way courts in the territory worked.

"Courts between Hong Kong and inland areas should strengthen links, broaden exchanges, cooperate with one another and offer mutual assistance," said Mr. Ren, president of the Supreme People's

Court.

"They should offer mutual assistance for a better performance of the Hong Kong judicial work," he added.

Hong Kong's judicial system still works along the lines of the British system, although the territory reverted to Chinese sovereignty on July 1 last year.

## Pioneer woman war reporter, ex-Hemingway wife, dies at 89

LONDON (AFP) — Martha Gellhorn, war correspondent, novelist and third wife of writer Ernest Hemingway, has died at her London home aged 89, close friends of hers said.

Gellhorn, who covered the Spanish civil war, World War II, the Vietnam war and the 1967 Arab-Israeli wars, died Sunday.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Gellhorn graduated from Bryn Mawr College and went on to become one of the world's first female war correspondents, working for several publications.

She was at the Allied D-Day landings in Normandy and the liberation of Dachau concentration camp.

She married three times. Her first husband was French writer Bertrand de Jouvenel, whom she divorced after she met Hemingway in Florida's Key West in 1936.

Gellhorn and Hemingway were married in 1940 and separated five years later. She claimed Hemingway drove her mad with jealousy and his "ceaseless, crazy bullying."

Her last marriage was to Time magazine editor T.S. Mathews.

Gellhorn also wrote 13 novels, including "The Honeyed Peace" and "The Trouble I've Seen." Her autobiography "Travels With Myself And Another" appeared in 1979.

She often complained

that she was best known for being Hemingway's third wife. "I was a writer before I met him, and I have been a writer for 45 years since," she once complained.

Gellhorn lived in many different countries during her life, including France, Cuba, Mexico, Italy and Kenya. Her final years were spent in Britain between her cottage in Wales and an apartment in London.

Friends said she had been ill for some time, arthritic and partially blind, but her mind was sharp to the end.

She is survived by one son, George Alexander Gellhorn, an adopted son, Sandy Gellhorn, and her brother Alfred.

## Bosnian Serbs to appear at Yugoslavia tribunal

AMSTERDAM (R) — Two Bosnian Serbs who surrendered to NATO troops at the weekend were to appear before the criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia later Tuesday, the United Nations court said.

Milan Simic, 40, and Miroslav Tadic, 60, will enter their pleas at 2:30 p.m. (1330 GMT), it said in a statement.

They face charges of crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva conventions of 1949. Mr. Simic is also accused of violations of the laws or customs of war.

If found guilty, they face a maximum of life imprisonment.

The two suspects arrived at the Tribunal's Detention Centre in Scheveningen near the Hague just after midnight Sunday.

Saturday, they had turned themselves in to U.S. diplomats and NATO-led peacekeeping forces (SFOR) in Bosnia.

Mr. Tadic and Mr. Simic were indicted in July 1995 for their alleged involvement in the ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Croats and Muslims living in the strategic town of Bosanski Samac in 1992.

The indictment alleges that in 1991 Bosnian Croats and Muslims made up over half of the municipality's population of 33,000. By May 1995, fewer than 300 of the Bosnian Croat and Muslims remained.

Mr. Tadic is specifically charged with the deportation and transfer of non-Serbs. Mr. Simic and others are alleged to have beaten a Muslim resident with iron bars and chair legs.

## Corrupt police chief sentenced to death in China

BEIJING (AFP) — A court in eastern China's Hangzhou city has sentenced a former police chief to death for corruption, the People's Court Daily reported Tuesday.

Wu Weibin, the former director of the Public Security Bureau (PSB) in the city's Jianggan district, was found to have accepted bribes worth a total of nearly 1.6 million yuan (\$192,771) between 1991 and 1996, the report said.

The bribes came in the form of decoration work, two cars, a motorcycle, cash and various other gifts, the court was told.

Mr. Wu, who was arrested in April last year, will be able to appeal the intermediate court sentence to the Zhejiang province High People's Court.

Three senior police officials in the northeastern city of Harbin were jailed for between seven and 13 years in December.

Chen Minding, the former director of the PSB in Heilongjiang province's Songjiang administrative region — which includes Harbin — was found to be involved in graft totalling 441,000 yuan (\$53,132).

Premier Li Peng admitted earlier this month that major cases of official corruption are still on the rise. Regulations to encourage greater self-discipline among government officials "have not been completely implemented," Mr. Li said in an anti-graft conference.

President Jiang Zemin has called the problem of corruption a matter of "life and death" for the ruling Communist Party and urged judicial organs to focus on cases involving senior officials and large sums of money.

## Queen Mother leaves hospital

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Queen Mother left hospital Tuesday, just over three weeks after emergency surgery to replace her left hip.

The 97-year-old royal, wearing a light purple coat and matching hat, walked to her car outside King Edward VII Hospital, in central London, using two silver-topped sticks, to return to Clarence House, her London residence.

She fractured her hip in a fall at Sandringham, Queen Elizabeth II's estate in eastern England, on Jan. 25 and underwent a successful replacement operation at the hospital.

The Queen Mother was viewing horses when she fell and was initially admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in King's Lynn, near the estate. Later she was transferred to the King Edward VII hospital in London where, in November 1995, she had surgery for the replacement of her right hip.



The Queen Mother waves as a nurse assists her down the steps of King Edward VII Hospital just over three weeks after undergoing emergency surgery to replace her left hip (Reuters photo)



## Bosnian Serbs to appear at Yugoslavia tribunal

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Two Bosnian Serb soldiers surrendered to the tribunal for the war in Yugoslavia on Tuesday.

The soldiers, who were part of the 15th Military Police Battalion, were taken into custody by the tribunal's forces in the town of Zvornik.

The tribunal, which is based in The Hague, is the first international court to be set up to prosecute war crimes since the end of the Second World War.

The soldiers are expected to appear before the tribunal in the coming weeks.

They face charges of crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

The tribunal is also investigating the deaths of several Bosnian Serb soldiers who were killed during the war.

The tribunal is expected to be the first international court to prosecute war crimes since the end of the Second World War.

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The tribunal is expected to be the first international court to prosecute war crimes since the end of the Second World War.

## Corrupt police chief sentenced to death in China

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese court sentenced a corrupt police chief to death on Tuesday for his role in the death of a young woman.

The court found that the police chief, who was named Li, had used his position to extort money from the woman's family.

The woman, who was named Wang, had been killed by a car that was driven by a police officer who was bribed by Li.

The court also sentenced Li to a life term in prison for his role in the death of Wang.

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## WWII sex slaves seek Japanese royals' support for legal action

MANILA (AP) — Filipina World War II sex slaves Tuesday demanded a meeting with Japan's visiting Prince Akishino to seek the royal household's support for a damage suit they have filed against Tokyo.

The women, who were known as "comfort women," are seeking compensation for the damage they suffered during the war.

The women are also seeking recognition from the Japanese government for their status as victims of war.

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## Bonn says army has extremists under control

LUENBURG, Germany (AP) — Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said Monday the German army was on top of attempts by right-wing extremists to infiltrate its ranks to gain weapons and combat training.

Ruehe said that the army was aware of the situation and was taking steps to prevent it.

The army is also aware of the situation and is taking steps to prevent it.

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## Sri Lanka panel orders probe into child sex charges against Clarke

COLOMBO (AP) — A high-level panel in Sri Lanka has ordered a probe into allegations that the British security officer Arthur C. Clarke had sex with young local boys, a panelist said Tuesday.

The panel is also investigating the allegations that Clarke had sex with young local boys.

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Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams (left) and chief negotiator Martin McGuinness arrive at the peace talks at Dublin Castle (Reuters photo)

## London and Dublin try to keep Ulster peace talks on track

DUBLIN (AP) — London and Dublin were expected by Wednesday to order the temporary expulsion of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, from Northern Ireland peace talks over two recent killings in Belfast.

The two governments are trying to keep the peace talks on track despite the recent killings.

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## Taiwan searches for cause of worst plane crash

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan Tuesday launched a top-level enquiry into why a China Airlines Airbus crashed and exploded as it tried to land here, killing more than 200 people in the country's worst air disaster.

The enquiry is being led by the CAA, which is the authority responsible for aviation safety in Taiwan.

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CAA Director Tsai Tui, who offered to resign early Tuesday to take responsibility for the crash, said the vital flight data and cockpit voice recorder had been found.

The airline has set up a crisis task force to help relatives and announced it will give 200,000 Taiwan dollars (\$6,000) to relatives ahead of talks on full compensation.

The dead included Taiwan Central Bank Governor Sheu Tuan-Dong, his wife and several other finance officials returning from a weekend meeting of regional central bank chiefs in Bali.

As Buddhist monks chanted funeral prayers, one elderly couple grieved for the members of their family killed in the tragedy — their

three children, their spouses and seven grandchildren.

Ten members of another family were among the dead.

"There is no meaning for me to go on living without my only son," said a weeping 70-year-old man, identified by his last name Wei.

On the highway leading to the airport, recovery workers were seen putting parts of charred bodies into bags. Blood, mangled bodies and twisted wreckage covered the highway for two kilometres and the area was cordoned off by police.

"I heard a deafening explosion and then I saw the aeroplane smash several houses including that of my uncle. It then became a sea of fire... really like hell," a witness told AFP.

A grim-faced Premier Vincent Siew expressed his "deep condolences" to families of the victims.

The airline, which had rebuilt its image after a crash in Japan four years ago, apologised in half-page letters published by three evening newspapers.

The ill-fated plane was the same model as a CAL passenger jet which crashed at Nagoya in on April 26, 1994, killing 264 people.

Observers said on both occasions the pilots were trying to pull up the plane after the first landing attempt had failed.

An investigation of the Nagoya crash by Japanese authorities suggested pilot error and suspected computer flaws, CAA officials said.

Almost 1,000 people have died in a series of air crashes involving Asian airlines in the past year.

On Feb. 2, 104 people were killed when a Cebu Pacific Air DC-9 crashed in the Philippines' worst air disaster, and almost 1,000 people have died in a string of Asia plane crashes in the past year.

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## Deported Chinese dissident on hunger strike over second detention

BEIJING (AP) — An exiled dissident deported from China for making a clandestine trip home has started a hunger strike in New York to press for the release of a maths teacher jailed after they met, fellow activists said Tuesday.

Wang Bingzhang, expelled from China on Feb. 9 for attempting to garner support for an opposition political group called the Justice Party, started a hunger strike outside the United Nations building in New York at noon (1700 GMT) Monday.

He will take turns along with fellow dissident Zhang Lin and other members of the Justice Party to hold 24-hour fasts until maths teacher Wang Tingjin is released from jail in China.

"The Justice Party has decided that from noon on Feb. 16 its members will carry out a hunger strike outside the U.N. Plaza to call upon the U.N. Human Rights Commission to intervene in China's violations of human rights," spokesman Fu Sheng said in a fax.

"We call on the Chinese government to immediately release Wang Tingjin and we will not stop fasting until the day when he is released," he added.

Wang Bingzhang was deported from China after entering the country on a false name and travelling around the dissident community for more than two weeks to garner support for the Justice Party.

Beijing does not permit the establishment of new political parties and has in the past jailed those who challenge its authority with the crime of attempting to overthrow the government.

While three of those detained in connection with the case have been released, 43-year-old maths teacher

Wang Tingjin, who served a two-year prison term for involvement in the Democracy Wall movement in 1979, remains in detention.

One of the three dissidents released also joined in Tuesday with calls for Wang Tingjin's release.

## South Korean court upholds 3-year sentence on president's son

SEOUL (AP) — The son of outgoing South Korean President Kim Young-Sam lost an appeal Tuesday against a three-year jail sentence for influence peddling and tax evasion.

Kim Hyun-Chul, 38, was sentenced to three years in prison for influence peddling and tax evasion.

Kim Hyun-Chul's case was the first ever in South Korea where a court had used tax evasion charges to punish a recipient of "political" donations by businessmen.

The 38-year-old Kim Hyun-Chul, who was released last November on bail, walked grim-faced out of the court saying he would "respect the decision."

But his disappointed lawyers said they would take the case to the supreme court. Mr. Kim is charged with hiding 6.6 billion won (\$3.8 million) in tax evasion charges to punish a recipient of "political" donations by businessmen.

"There is no change in our position that he is not guilty," defence lawyer Suh Sang-Kyu was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as telling reporters.

"Since it is an unprecedented ruling, it is necessary to get the supreme court's last verdict," he said.

The lawyers were hoping the court would hand down a suspended sentence and have the case wrapped up before the president, their client's father, leaves office on Feb. 25.

The arrest of the younger Kim on May 17 last year had badly damaged the image of President Kim who took office in 1993 vowing to wipe out corruption.

The senior Kim shook the political establishment when he



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.  
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## Keeping a steady course

THE CABINET reshuffle announced yesterday signals no basic change in policies the government has pursued since its formation nearly a year ago. The fact that His Majesty King Hussein approved only a modest change in ministerial portfolios means effectively that this is the time to renew confidence in the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, and be prepared to the double crisis to our east and west.

In actual terms neither regional nor international conditions warrant a change of course. With the Middle East peace process at a standstill and the Iraq crisis threatening to blow up into a major military conflagration, regional considerations would preclude a dramatic shift in our national perspectives at this critical juncture.

There will come a time, though, when the country would have to reconsider several local policy issues as well review some of its regional and international postures. On the local level, the "defeat" of the government on the amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law by a high court decision could be regarded as a vote of no-confidence. How to end the alienation of the opposition will also be an important issue for any future government to tackle and solve. The double regional crises, on the other hand, are taking their toll on our economic and fiscal well-being. At the very least they are straining the government's ability to cope with them. The situation in Iraq, whose explosion could pose a major threat to our trade and commerce with that country, is particularly disturbing.

This is a time for continuity, steadfastness and preparedness at the national level. Dr. Majali's government has been steering a middle course amid the big challenges, and we hope that it can do even better after yesterday's reshuffle.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Dustour's** Mohammad Daoud accused the government of neglecting its responsibilities with regard to the local labour market which, he said, is currently in a state of chaos. The presence of half a million non-Jordanian workers in the country is not due to what the government calls "the culture of shame," implying that Jordanians shun occupations filled by guest workers, but is due to the failure of the concerned authorities in dealing with the issue and preventing non-Jordanians from coming in great numbers. Increasingly Jordanians are taking vocational training courses with the hope of finding jobs for reasonable pay, but the government is flooding the country with guest workers to please the employers who engage non-Jordanians, who demand less pay and do a million other jobs as well free-of-charge in order to retain their jobs and stay in the country, charged the writer. He said the concerned authorities demand only that the guest workers obtain work permits and pay the work permit fees, and are not concerned with ending the present chaos in the labour market. He said it is not possible to deal with the unemployment problem in Jordan as long as the country continues to open its doors to non-Jordanian workers.

**Al Arab Al Yawm's** Riham Farra expressed opposition to a ban on pro-Iraq demonstrations imposed by the governments of Egypt, Palestine and Jordan saying that the ban reflects badly on the three countries' image and shows them to be undemocratic. These governments believe that by such restrictive measures they are pleasing the U.S., when in reality they are stifling the opinion of their own citizens who are filled with indignation in view of the injustice done to Iraq, said the writer. She said muzzling public opinion reveals that no democracy exists in these countries and that they are succumbing to the desires of the U.S. The writer said the three governments should have allowed the public to express their views openly and stage demonstrations to express their protest against the use of force on Iraq. By so doing these governments would have gained credibility as democratic regimes, she added. These governments could have arranged for counter protests by moderate elements who can demand that U.N. resolutions be implemented in all cases without any double standards and so open the way for all factions to express their views. The writer said by using force against the demonstrators these governments are doing more damage to themselves than to Iraq, and they are definitely not doing a favour to the U.S.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

## Surrender and declare victory

THE U.S. Senate adjourned last week without passing a resolution in support of a military strike against Iraq. Since the Senate will not reconvene until Feb. 23, the Congress can take no action for at least one week.

The Senate's refusal came as a surprise to some, especially given the bellicose rhetoric of some Senate leaders in recent weeks. These public comments apparently masked private concerns.

Many senators, for example, privately question the ultimate goals of a military strike and ask what could, in reality, be accomplished even by the "substantial and decisive" air strikes threatened by the administration. What, they ask, would be the options left to the United States if the Iraqi regime survived the attacks still defiant of the U.N. inspections? Others raise concerns about the negative consequences resulting from such attacks — civilian casualties, destabilisation and the potential for an anti-American backlash that might prove threatening to U.S. allies in the region. Finally, there are questions about the cost of the operations and concerns about how these costs are going to be covered.

The White House still insists that it can take limited military action without congressional approval. This has historically been the position taken by past administrations. The Bush administration, for example, maintained that it had constitutional authority to act against Iraq in 1991 without congressional approval, but it welcomed the blessing it received from the Senate shortly before launching its attack in January of that year.

The Clinton administration can act alone, but given the seriousness of the Congress' reservations and the potential political fall-out should the risky military venture fail, it seems unclear whether the White House will act without further congressional consultations.

This failure of the Republican-led Senate to give its blessing was only one of a number of new developments that added complexity to the Gulf crisis in recent weeks.

Several prominent liberal Democratic members of Congress have formed a caucus of members opposed to any military action. They have taken to the airwaves and, in some cases, to demonstrations in front of the White House to make their case.

While the opposition of liberals might have been expected, there were some surprising developments on the conservative side as well.

The old cold warriors of the neo-conservative movement have continued to beat the war drums, but more traditional conservatives have stepped up their public opposition to a conflict. Many prominent and influential conservative political commentators have been expressing their reservations about U.S.-Iraq policy for several weeks; they were joined a few days ago by Jack Kemp, the 1996 Republican vice presidential candidate and a leading contender for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination. In what is most certainly a risky move, Kemp issued a plan to end the stand-off and ultimately to end the economic sanctions against Iraq. In essence, the Kemp plan calls for Iraq to agree to unrestricted inspections for a six-month period. At the end of this period, if Iraq can be certified to be free of weapons of mass destruction, the U.N. would then move to end economic (not military) sanctions against that country.

Kemp's is only one, albeit the most prominent, of many plans being circulated and discussed as a way of ending the crisis. Although these efforts differ in some of their details, they share a number of common points as well. All of these proposals seek to find a way out of the current stand-off by reconciling the U.N.'s insistence on unrestricted inspections and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction programmes with what is believed to be Iraq's concern that there be a defined process that will end economic sanctions when full compliance is verified.

With these developments, the situation has become

more complex than it was a few weeks ago. The Iraqi regime's game of brinkmanship has produced some tangible results. There is greater awareness and concern than ever before for the plight of the Iraqi people. The decision to dramatically increase the U.N.'s food-for-oil programme to over \$11 billion per year is significant in this regard. At the same time, Iraq's isolation in the Arab and international arenas has been reduced. Finally, there is a growing debate both internationally and in the United States regarding the sanctions policy.

Given all of this, however, the Iraqis must recognise that there is no lessening of support for full implementation of the U.N. resolution requiring unrestricted inspections and a verifiable end to all weapons of mass destruction programmes. Despite the fervent desire of many, both in the Arab World and internationally, to see an end to the current government in Iraq, most have become resigned to the fact that the regime will in all probability survive. This can be accepted, however, only if it complies with its obligations and is militarily contained.

But lest the government of Iraq misread the situation, it must understand that even with the dangers brought on by the complexities and uncertainties of recent developments, it hardly seems possible that the Clinton administration can pull back from its threat of force if Iraq fails to agree to inspections. Even without congressional support and even with the attendant risks and the negative consequences of U.S. attacks, the administration appears to be too over-committed to back away from its position. And many U.S. allies in the Middle East who fear the consequences of a U.S. attack also fear the consequences of the United States losing face in this stand-off.

The ball remains in Saddam Hussein's court. The question is will he be smart enough to surrender and, recognising his gains, declare victory.

## Finding the right balance to revive the peace process

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON — Palestinians and Israeli negotiators were back in town for another feeble attempt at peace-making under the aegis of a Clinton administration that is otherwise distracted by seemingly intractable problems, in the Gulf region and over the sex-and-lies scandal engulfing the White House.

The assertions by a key U.S. aide directly involved in the Palestinian-Israeli talks that "a way must be found" to pursue the Middle East peace process offered an intriguing perspective in contrast to the one aired by a prominent Israeli analyst who told a different audience that "almost nothing can happen in this city" that will push the process forward.

What prompted the Israeli's dismay on the eve of the second American try at reviving the crippled Middle East peace process was the collapse of President Clinton's reported strategy to twist the arms of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Israeli leader had preceded Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for the inconclusive talks at the White House last month just as the stand-off with Iraq over the U.N. inspectors escalated and the alleged affair between Clinton and a young White House intern surfaced.

Ehud Sprinzak, a professor at Haifa University in Israel and his country's leading authority on the Israeli Right, saw two alternatives to the 11-month stalemate in a talk at the prestigious Center for Strategic and International Studies last week.

Describing the Palestinians as "tired and weak and lacking any support or world sympathy," he thought one alternative is "total surrender."

The other, he continued, is an "armed insurrection" which he said would be bloodier than the intifada, the Palestinian uprising that erupted against Israeli occupation in the late eighties. A Palestinian armed

insurrection today "will mean tough actions, including many casualties," Sprinzak said.

"I do not have the instruments to tell which of these alternatives are closer," he continued, "but I am increasingly convinced that almost nothing can happen in this city."

Aaron Miller, the State Department's deputy coordinator for the Middle East peace process, was consumed in defending the U.S. role, often described officially as "honest broker," in the face of criticism from some elements within the American Jewish community about the growing U.S. role in the negotiations.

As a matter of fact, the invitation to the closed-door briefing at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy noted that "the depth of U.S. involvement in the stale-mated Israeli-Palestinian track — from the president's role in diplomacy to the U.S. role in facilitating Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation — is unprecedented."

Miller argued that the United States is "in a unique and irreplaceable position" to play a role in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "I say that not with arrogance or hubris, although I do say it with a great deal of pride."

He continued, "To see U.S. policy as an all or nothing proposition is not an accurate way to look at what is it we do. It is not a question of the U.S. either being in the room with the parties as a full-fledged mediator, drafting agreements and bridging gaps on the one hand, or sitting back on the sidelines with little or no role to play on the other."

Miller was also mindful of some Arab demands for others to take part in mediating a settlement. The United States, he went on, "has acquired more influence and credibility and more confidence with all of the parties to the conflict than any other external actor or player in the international system."

The issue, he continued, has always been about finding "the right balance, between

doing too much on one year and not enough on the other."

The senior State Department aide also took time to explain the rationale for the two-step approach — interim and permanent — for a Mideast settlement as laid out in the Oslo accords. He said, "this is a conflict that evolved in stages over time; it will only logically be resolved in stages over time."

Accordingly, he added, "we have to recognise that one of the great conflicts of the 20th century will be resolved as a consequence of a process."

He admitted that the peace process is no longer "self-sustaining" but it is not that "we do not have negotiations; we do, but at the moment they are not functioning the way they should be." What is at risk, in the opinion of Miller, is that "the logic of Oslo, or the logic of partnership that made the implementation of Oslo possible."

In a no-holds barred session, Ehud Sprinzak was more forthright: "In my judgement, the Oslo accords is almost dead."

He laid the blame on President Clinton. He pointed out that the Israeli prime minister returned home triumphant, having "defeated" not only Arafat but Clinton as well.

Sprinzak pointed to the media buildup here that said Clinton was ready to lean on Netanyahu especially after he snubbed him earlier when he refused to see him.

Instead, the Israeli prime minister came to town without any mandate from his government, certainly not to discuss any "two-digit" pullback. The Israeli professor said, and scored "a major and dramatic slap in the face" of the American president when, on the eve of the talks, he appeared at a rally of anti-Clinton Christian fundamentalists at a downtown Washington hotel.

"It is almost, some of my friends suggested, like President Clinton coming to Jerusalem to visit Israel but on his way

stops in Gaza and visits Sheikh Yassin (the Hamas leader) to say hello."

Sprinzak continued: "Not only did it happen, but the prime minister of Israel got away with it. The whole preparations (for an American showdown), the whole organisation, everything, produced no results whatsoever. Perhaps, we know today, because the president had other matters (on his mind)."

The Israeli professor expressed doubt that the U.S. can recoup from this setback and start all over again even if the crisis with Iraq is settled and the uproar over the sex scandal dies down.

What is more ominous in his thinking is that the Netanyahu strategy for galvanizing the Christian Right in the United States is working. "The strategy of playing hard ball has paid off," he emphasised. "It was not Israeli chutzpah, but playing hard ball domestic American politics."

Sprinzak then faulted the Palestinians for not doing "a better job in this country, in this town." The one thing which I found most amazing since I came to this city six months ago is the total absence of the Palestinian, or for that matter, Arab voice that would properly present what is going on."

"Basically," he continued, "this is a situation of civil and human rights. The Israeli occupation and the creation of large settlements around Palestinians is increasingly becoming similar to South Africa in the bad old days."

The Palestinians have a case, he insisted. Many liberal groups in this country could, under certain circumstances, support them. "I have not seen many groups on Capitol Hill because the Palestinians have deserted, in my judgement, the most important political front — Washington, D.C. and the United States of America."

The writer is a free lance journalist based in Washington, D.C.

## LETTERS

## Reader recommended

To the editor:

BELOW IS an item from The Orlando Sentinel received by the Internet.

I think it would be a good idea to publish it in the Jordan Times to reflect the double standard of the U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Rashid A. Daoudi  
 Amman

## A pop quiz on the Middle East — answers may surprise you

By Charley Reese  
 The Orlando Sentinel

QUESTION: Which country alone in the Middle East has nuclear weapons?

ANSWER: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and bars international inspections?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East seized the sovereign territory of other nations by military force and continues to occupy it in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East routinely violates the international borders of another sovereign state with warplanes and artillery and naval gunfire?

A: Israel.

Q: What American ally in the Middle East has for years sent assassins into other countries to kill its political enemies (a practice sometimes called exporting terrorism)?

A: Israel.

Q: In which country in the Middle East have high-ranking military officers admitted publicly that unarmed prisoners of war were executed?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East refuses to prosecute its soldiers who have acknowledged executing prisoners of war?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East created 762,000 refugees and refuses to allow them to return to their homes, farms and businesses?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East refuses to pay compensation to people whose land, bank accounts and businesses it confiscated?

A: Israel.

Q: In what country in the Middle East was a high-ranking United Nations diplomat assassinated?

A: Israel.

Q: In what country in the Middle East did the man who ordered the assassination of a high-ranking U.N. diplomat become prime minister?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East blew up an American diplomatic facility in Egypt and attacked a U.S. ship in international waters, killing 33 and wounding 177 American sailors?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East employed a spy, Jonathan Pollard, to steal classified documents and then gave some of them to the Soviet Union?

A: Israel.

Q: What country at first denied any official connection to Pollard, then voted to make him a citizen and has continuously demanded that the American president grant Pollard a full pardon?

A: Israel.

Q: What country on Planet Earth has the second most powerful lobby in the United States, according to a recent Fortune magazine survey of Washington insiders?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East is in defiance of 69 United Nations Security Council resolutions and has been protected from 29 more by U.S. vetoes?

A: Israel.

Q: What country is the United States threatening to bomb because "U.N. Security Council resolutions must be obeyed?"

A: Iraq.



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# Features

## 'Education, media and immigrants play vital roles in bridging gap between Islam, West'

The following address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the 520th Wilton Park Conference "Building bridges between Islam and the West" was delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath El Hassan on Monday.

MY HUSBAND, Crown Prince Hassan much regrets not being here with you today — but does want me to say how very important he thinks meetings such as this are, in the quest for greater understanding between peoples. He sends you his greetings, and has asked me to read you the following speech on his behalf.

One of the first, and most brilliant, of 20th century Philhellenes, Robert Byron, maintained that the greatness of Byzantium lay in what he termed "the Triple Fusion": That of a Roman body, a Greek mind and an oriental mystical soul. Throughout much of our eventful history Muslims, Christians and Jews have exerted a powerful influence upon each other, and each other's imagination. The interaction has also brought about an ambivalence which has become a salient feature of the relationship between Islam and the West. Over the last few days your task has been to contend with the adverse dimension of this ambivalence.

By the time the churches of Constantinople and Rome had reached a parting of the ways, the Christians of Egypt, Syria and Iraq had already been under Muslim rule for over four centuries. Christian Arabs are in no way alien to Muslim or Arab society. They continue to share in each other's history and culture as they have done for over 14 centuries, during which time they have continually contributed, and eminently so, to the material and moral fabric of their joint communities, either on their own initiative or by trustful request.

**It is rather unfortunate that the impression that most Europeans have of contemporary Islam is gained from the popular media and not from history.**

As the balance of power shifted back and forth between Europe and the world of Islam, both Muslims and Europeans have been at their worst when they sought to dominate each other; and at their best when they looked to learn from each other. Islamic history celebrates the achievements of those episodes of synthesis such as occurred in Andalusia and in Sicily; although regrettably even today, these tend to be glossed over in most European classrooms. The crucial role of Muslim civilisation in preserving and transmitting the intellectual legacy of ancient Greece has perhaps been more widely acknowledged. However, the impact of European ideas in the Muslim world, particularly during this century, has often been controversial.

It is rather unfortunate that the impression that most Europeans have of contemporary Islam is gained from the popular media and not from history. Perceptions of the Islamic world are often overlaid by perceptions of Islamic extremism. When the perpetrators of any terrorist action happen coincidentally to be Muslim, an exaggerated stress on their religion normally gives rise to the glib but regrettable term of "Islamic terrorism". There is no such thing as "Islamic terrorism", "Jewish terrorism" or "Christian terrorism". This juxtaposition of a faith and terrorism in a single phrase can imply

totally incorrectly that any religion condones mindless acts of violence.

**We are sure that so long as Muslims feel marginalisation and exclusion, difficulties in building bridges between Islam and the West will continue.**

Much more appropriate is the sad realisation that there are, and will be, acts of violence committed by those who happen to be Muslim or Jewish or Christian or perhaps none of these. One must realise that their religious beliefs are rarely the sole moving force behind their actions, if at all. And sadly, if the media is not properly informed, this kind of stereotyping will prevail. The general contempt that the Western media often displays towards Islam does not help the situation. I cite "Islamophobia: A Challenge to us all," the work of the Runnymede Trust. They highlighted an article in the Sun (Nov. 12th, 1990), where a columnist spoke about encouraging immigrants to assimilate through scrapping the old (A for Apple, method of learning the alphabet and introducing a new one: "A for Ayatollah, B for Baghdad, C for Curry, F for Photo, H for Hizbollah, I for Intifada, J for Jihad, O for Onion Hajj"). The overlap between Islamophobia, or anti-Muslim prejudice and racism is

quite obvious here. So, while the images of Muslim extremists are etched into European consciousness, they are by no means universally accepted in the Muslim world as models of good governance. Alternative models of Islamic leadership, which hold the middle ground and pursue a path of moderation, are not widely known in the West. I believe that we are here to speak not only of bridges, but of the birth of a new Abrahamic language which can focus on the shared humanity that we have lost. Isaiah Berlin once said, "We have it that the thinkers of the Enlightenment, and their predecessors in the Renaissance, tended to look upon nature as divine harmony. The principal need of man is to understand the external world, and himself, and the place that he occupies in the scheme of things. This is equally true of rationalists and empiricists, Christian naturalists and pagans and atheists."

I would like to see this conversation and other inter-faith dialogue between what you choose to call "Islam and the West" evolve, as we approach the end of the millennium into a code of conduct based on patience, resilience and empathy. Some figures from the Muslim world have tried to initiate a global dialogue at various levels. I myself have been involved in inter-cultural and inter-faith initiatives for



many years, and have always sought to put forward the moderate Muslim perspective. However, one cannot help but feel a sense of frustration, for a great deal depends on whether such initiatives succeed; and their success depends in large measure on their public recognition. It is a sad truth, however, that such initiatives rarely receive the kind of media coverage that violent acts do.

We are sure that so long as Muslims feel marginalisation and exclusion, difficulties in building bridges between Islam and the West will continue. It is vitally important to stop the mutual demonisation. Muslims must learn that there is no global conspiracy against them, and they must come to understand that European achievements, both intellectual and practical, can ultimately enrich and not destroy their lives. And for its part, the West must treat Islam with the respect that is due to a world religion whose message and philosophy continues to attract more and more adherents each year. That one person in five on this earth is now a Muslim, is not entirely due to the high birth rates of many Muslim communities. The West must show that it does not see Islam as its enemy; but this does not mean that it should for a moment hesitate to condemn those actions which violate ordinary norms of decency, whoever commits them. To hold back in these cases is in fact an insult to true Muslims.

Education, as well as the media, plays a vital role. Both are powerful tools that can either create gulfs that separate, or build bridges of understanding and tolerance. School curricula in particular must be looked at and revised to eliminate a detrimental and harmful effect on young, malleable minds. The media — written, visual or broadcast — as well as academic curricula, must project unbiased images and can be formed with a view to explain, analyse and educate. It is as easy to unite as it is to divide. The power of television cannot be underestimated. That people have to be enlightened not only in schools but in their own living rooms.

The written media has a great deal to offer which they ignore at the moment. Ali Mazrui, the renowned anthropologist, has put it succinctly in a recent essay in Foreign Affairs saying that Muslims are often criticised for not

producing the best, but they are seldom congratulated for an ethic that has averted the worst. Muslim societies are being transformed almost beyond recognition. Social life and work ethics are changing; human rights and citizens' organisations are thriving. Democracies with transparent, accountable practices are developing. Perhaps more important in the long-term, Muslim thinkers in the Middle East and North Africa, in South-East Asia and in the Euro-American Diaspora are producing moderate and progressive interpretations of Islam.

Another legacy of history is the presence of large numbers of Muslims abroad, and particularly in Europe, where an estimated six to ten million Muslims now live. We believe that these Muslims can, and should, help in bridging the gap between civilisations. Although the way is never entirely smooth, most second and third generation Muslim immigrants are now integrating into their host societies. Of course, it cannot be denied that this process is hampered both by the religious discrimination that continues in some European societies, and vice versa, particularly with the revival of popular nationalism. But the integration of Muslim communities will take place only on the basis of their acknowledgement of the prevailing rule of law. Having said this, one should add that Muslims by and large, respect the rule of their host states and the applicable laws. This is because Muslims are not an alien race, but are for the most part normal law-abiding citizens like any others with normal hopes, fears and aspirations. It is worthwhile to note that Islam encourages integration in that not only because the principles of the religion require that a Muslim minority should obey a state in which it is resident, just as a Muslim state expects non-Muslims to respect it and to abide by its laws, whilst preserving their rights to total freedom to practise their own religion unimpeded by the host state. That some Muslim countries regrettably do not allow non-Muslims total freedom of worship is to do with that country's own particular civil law and has nothing to do with Islam.

Politicians and parliamentarians bear a weighty responsibility towards bridge building. Consultation and dialogue must take place

between those from both sides. Again, understanding and empathy are the keys to this problem. Neither Muslims nor Europeans should be asking for special privileges. They should not demand what is denied to others. However, Muslims are merely asking for their religion to be recognised within the European context. Given the continuation of state financial assistance for Christian institutions in nominally secular countries, Muslims legitimately wonder whether European communities could not extend the same facilities to their institutions. This would allow them a vital degree of financial and therefore political independence. We are therefore heartened to learn that two Muslim schools in Britain are to receive state financial support, whilst hoping that the administrations of these schools remember and act upon the guidelines that were mentioned earlier on.

We in the Middle East were also heartened by the approach of the Barcelona Process. It has called for a partnership between Europe and the southern Mediterranean area which is clearly in the interest of both sides. The mutual concerns go far beyond those topical issues of the day — religious extremism, terrorism, immigration, weapons of mass-destruction — and touch on the factors that together will shape our common future. We believe that such an approach can help to tackle the disparities and distortions that are the legacy of conflict in the Middle East, by building a zone of shared prosperity, by giving all of our peoples a stake in a peaceful future. We would like, and hope, to see similar patterns and frameworks created for other parts of the world of Islam. What is particularly welcome about Barcelona is that it dispels the stereotype of a Middle East summarised in three vested interests — oil, security and the strategic worth of Israel. Barcelona reminds us that politics are, or should be, about people (anthropology) which is what the term means.

**... Muslims are merely asking for their religion to be recognised within the European context.**

Dialogue is the essential prerequisite to these objectives. Interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue are particularly vital in building peace, for faith and culture are central components of identity. We would like to see the formulation of an international code of conduct for inter-faith dialogue outlining its rules and ultimate objectives. The West-Islamic Dialogue could be seen as inter-ethnic rather than inter-religious. Our search is for common values, for mutual respect based on self-respect, and for bridges rather than boundaries.

We firmly believe that this dialogue must have an intellectual as well as a political basis, and therefore it is good to see so many distinguished scholars taking part in this conference. For only through consultations of this nature can we build a future in which the West and the Muslim world are no longer rivals, eyeing each other warily, but partners linked by the bonds of geography, history and culture, who willingly join hands in common endeavour. Only in this way will the gap be bridged.

## Italians cut up by British move to slice ham

By Yann Tessier Reuters

PARMA (Italy) — Ham and cheese have made this northern Italian town the food capital of Italy, but this month it has also become the epicentre of a gastronomic row with the British.

It is a battle for a slice of a multi-million dollar business that has enraged culinary passions, dented national pride and generated court-room drama.

At stake is the right to slice ham from Parma and still be able to call it ham.

In a London court last week, the British supermarket chain ASDA won the right to import ham from Parma, slice it in Britain and still be able to use the name.

That has infuriated the Italians. They say the ruling flies in the face of European law and harms a centuries-old industry.

They also say it opens the door to fraud. Rogue operators could chop up any ham and call it Parma.

"The risk of fraud exists," said Maurizio Tosini. "It'll become almost impossible to judge in a packaged product, be it wine or ham, if that which has been packaged is the genuine ham or the genuine wine," he told Reuters Television.

ASDA says it can slice the ham where it wants — especially when it means the product is 20 per cent cheaper.

irrelevant," said ASDA's group marketing director Steven Cain.

It's a legal matter

Ham, like Burgundy wine, Camembert cheese or dozens of other luxury products, is protected by a European law which says that only products from the region of origin can bear the name.

In the High Court in London, the Italians argued in vain that law applied to the slicing and packaging as well.

Tosini has no intention of giving up. He is appealing the ruling and should it fail, he is prepared to lobby the Italian government to defend the cause of ham.

"I hope that the English, slowly — as I know that they are Eurosceptics — manage to convince themselves that they do indeed belong to the European Union," he said.

And there's a lot to defend. More than four million legs of ham are produced every year. Exports go to more than 20 countries on every continent, bar Australia.

The business as a whole generates a turnover of 1.5 trillion lire — just under one billion U.S. dollars.

Strict controls rule the name

The authorities go to extraordinary lengths to ensure quality is maintained and that only the finest is made. Ham is steeped in 2,000 years of tradition — and a

By Numan M. Gharalbeh

ISLAM IS, and has long been, a truly international religion. The majority of Muslims presently live outside the Arab World. There are Muslim minorities among non-Muslim populations in countries as diverse as China, the United States, Scandinavia, and Australia.

Muslims speak all sorts of languages. A common language that the Muslims of the world would use to communicate more effectively has become a must. Such a language is expected to create a feeling of unity and solidarity among Muslims of different ethnic backgrounds, and tongues.

The news rallying from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia, Chechnya, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Sudan, Turkey, the West Bank, and other parts of the world herald an abyss the Muslim populations are falling into while the civilised world is reaching for the stars.

A unifying language would be used to forecast and try to overcome the rising problems that face the Islamic World.

The recent economic problems that faced Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Asian Tigers' economies revealed how intertwined the world economy has become, and how fragile some of these economies are. The Muslim World is looking up to such countries as a model to overcome ethnic and religious tensions for the sake

of economic growth and development. The myriad of languages that one comes across in the Islamic World's economies make it more difficult to communicate and coordinate amongst these economies and between them and the rest of the world.

The new age of information technology and the world of the Internet offer limitless opportunities in communication, collaboration, and interactive learning. English is presently the dominant language in the world of the Internet. It is unfortunate that the majority of devout Muslims still consider learning and speaking the English language distasteful. This animosity may be historically justified, since English was the language of the British colonialists who oppressed the Arabs and Muslims during most of this century. However, this attitude has to change if the Muslims want to keep abreast of the tide of accelerating knowledge in science, technology and economic prosperity. Religious prejudices still exist to a significant degree among all religions and smaller sects and fanaticism remains the greatest enemy of all.

There is no doubt that English is the language spoken most on earth at the present time. The native speakers of the Chinese Mandarin may be more numerous, but not by the widest stretch of the imagination can the diversity of the nationalities of those

## A bilingual Muslim World

who speak Mandarin be as close to the diversity of the nationalities of those who speak English as a second language. The causes of the dominance of the English language on the scene are numerous and not the subject of this discussion. However, this dominance heralds the dominance of the "Western" culture as a whole and cannot be ignored.

The Muslim countries (or countries described as Islamic) have so far ignored dealing with very important issues on the minds of their youth. Issues such as sexual freedom, freedom to express scepticism about religion, resolving some scientific and philosophical arguments, contradicting orthodox religious and cultural beliefs, and trying to accommodate the dramatic changes that the worlds of satellite TV and the World Wide Web have brought.

So far the stance of governments and the clergy was to "ignore your problems, and they will go away." Well, they won't, they never did and never will. As a result of this attitude, many paranoid views have emerged about a conspiracy that the "West" and "Zionism" have woven to corrupt the minds of young Muslims. I do not believe in the presence of such intentional cultural invasion. It is happening because the Arab and Muslim governments and the clergy are not offering our youth any logical and suitable alternatives. To men-

tion one example, let us examine our approach as a culture to the sexual impulses, feelings, fantasies, thoughts, and yearnings of our youth. Are we supposed to tell our youth "ignore them" or "brush them under the carpet"? If these are the only answers that we are going to offer our youth, then let us not blame them if they get swept away by the "Western" style of life that accepts and validates these sexual strivings.

In the age of the Internet, a global language (in addition to the local languages) is the only viable solution to bring about an international understanding, communication, exchange of views and scientific knowledge, and other components of what defines our civilisation. A logical outcome of this would be the creation of a worldwide bilingual culture, in which cultures around the globe save their language-specific aspects but join the rest of the world in the language-non-specific aspects. On one hand, this will preserve literature and other language-specific cultural heritage. On the other, it will allow the Arabs and Muslims to join the rest of the world in welcoming the 21st century while keeping their identity as Arabic-speaking Arabs, Turkish-speaking Turks, Farsi-speaking Iranians, and so on and so forth.

A quick look at the foreign influences on our culture shows the great dominance of the English-speaking American culture. Wouldn't Japan or China or even Indonesia have a similar impact on our culture if they used English as a medium to express and communicate their cultural beliefs and behaviours?

A hundred daily columns in an Arabic daily newspaper explaining our views as Arabs to the international community will not reach further than the borders of the Arab World. Nor is an article in Farsi in an Iranian daily newspaper going to explain the complexity of the situation in the Persian Gulf to Westerners. However, an article in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times or equivalent is worth a thousand in some local newspaper in the Arab or Muslim World where almost all the readers share the same views, and prejudices.

Our children should explain themselves and their heritage to the rest of the world, not to their brethren and compatriots. We should lay the groundwork and help them to encourage them to become bilingual. This might be one of the most important steps to meeting the challenges of the coming century and millennium.

The writer is a clinical instructor of psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine of the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



## Zarqa Chamber of Industry to commence operations Saturday

By Ghaila Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The new chamber of industry in Zarqa Tuesday is set to commence operations on Saturday, despite calls from some industrialists to freeze the establishment of an independent chamber there.

Seven board members were elected by acclamation on Monday, but the chamber has not yet registered any industry, according to the Zarqa Chamber of Industry Chairman Mohammad Tal.

"We have already furnished our offices in Zarqa and we are planning to start operations on Saturday," said Dr. Tal.

This move enraged the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and several industrialists who said the government's decision to authorise the establishment of a separate chamber of industry in Zarqa would harm the economy at a time when the private sector should join forces to confront challenges brought about by economic globalisation.

Some ACI supporters saw the move as undermining the role of the chamber — for decades the sole powerful lobby of over 9,000 industrialists across the country.

The controversy began when the government decided to authorise the establishment of an independent chamber of industry in Zarqa — as requested by 23 Zarqa-based industrialists.

Dr. Tal said the establishment of the Zarqa chamber was in line with the current law which allows for the establishment of such chambers.

"According to the law, the Zarqa-based industries will have to register with our chamber," noted Dr. Tal referring to the 1000 industries based there for decades.

However, the ACI is sparing no effort to convince other industrialists, planning to set up similar chambers in different governorates, to reverse their decision and join the ACI in its plans to draft a legislation that would allow for the establishment of a national structure to look after the recession-hit sector.

The government has supported the ACI to draft the legislation that would provide for the creation of the Jordan Chamber of Industry with offices in major cities across the country.

Meanwhile, some Irbid-based industrialists seem adamant to forge ahead with the establishment of an industrial chamber in the northern city hosting more than 54 industries.

But according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper, the same industrialists decided to form a committee that will study the ACI plan to establish a national chamber that would look after their industries, currently enjoying a free trade status in U.S. markets under an agreement with Israel.

Jordan and Israel, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, signed an agreement designating Irbid Industrial Estate as a Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) at a controversial Middle East and North Africa economic conference held in Doha last November.

Under the QIZ deal, Irbid-based enterprises, making anything from textiles to electronic components, will use what some officials call a "gift" that will allow their goods to penetrate U.S. markets free of customs duties without reciprocity.

According to Al Ra'i, ACI Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan had a meeting with Irbid industrialists on Monday and said that independent chambers will not be financially or technically capable to deal with current local and international developments.

What is needed, he added, is a strong structure, capable of looking after the national industry as a whole.

## World Bank official praises Jordan's economic achievement

By Mahmoud Masharqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The World Bank has offered to grant Jordan \$200 million worth of loans in 1998 to support the social safety package, water and road projects, in addition to higher education and vocational training, director of Jordan Desk in the Middle East and North Africa region John MacGregor told the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

Mr. MacGregor said the loan will be used to support 300 impoverished areas in the Kingdom, including Palestinian refugees camps.

On the volume of loans to Jordan, Mr. MacGregor said the bank has no specific figures on the volume of loans to Jordan over the next few years, noting that such volume depends on Jordan's needs and requests for such loans.

The World Bank official lauded Jordan's economic legislation, saying that they help attract foreign investments, and called for pressing ahead with the privatisation drive, noting that it will help provide job opportunities for unemployed Jordanians.

Mr. MacGregor said Jordan has been able to increase economic growth rates, and to maintain the low inflation rates at their present levels, in addition to reducing its foreign debt.

He anticipated that the year 1998 will witness more investment opportunities in Jordan, stressing that joint projects with Israel will not cause any harm to the Jordanian economy.

The World Bank official said the bank directs special attention to supporting the National Aid Fund to enable it to provide its services to a larger proportion of people who needs the fund's support.

## Foreign capital imports to Israel up in 1997

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign investors put \$3.7 billion into the Israeli economy in 1997, an increase of \$1 billion over 1996, the Bank of Israel said Tuesday.

About half of the increase was the result of direct investments while the other half was from financial investments.

Capital inflows by foreigners in the second half totalled \$2.2 billion, up from \$1.5 billion in the first half.

The Israeli private sector imported \$4.8 billion in 1997, against \$2.4 billion in 1996. But the imports were concentrated in the first half, when they reached \$5.4 billion.

In the second half Israel exported \$570 million, marking a turnaround from a huge flow of capital imports in the previous two and a half years.

"Israeli residents effectively stopped taking credit in foreign currency from the banking system in the second half of 1997 while increasing their deposits in foreign currency in this period by \$1.3 billion," the Central Bank said in a statement.

Israelis borrowed \$229 million in foreign currency from Israeli banks in the

second half against \$4.2 billion in the first half.

The inflow of capital by Israeli companies attracted to lower interest rates overseas had put upward pressure on the Israeli shekel.

Because of that the Bank of Israel was forced to intervene regularly in the local market to prevent the currency from appreciating outside its trading band.

Israeli foreign currency reforms in June and the Southeast Asian crisis increased the exchange rate risk associated with taking foreign currency loans. At the same time, the spread between domestic and foreign interest rates has narrowed.

Foreign financial investments in 1997 rose to \$2.1 billion from \$1.4 billion in 1996. Foreign investment in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange more than doubled to \$720 million from \$335 million in 1996, though most of the increase was in the first half of 1997.

Direct investment by foreigners in 1997 rose to \$1.8 billion from \$1.3 billion in 1996. Much of this was the result of privatisation, such as the sale of a controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim.

## EU official reviews Euro-Med Partnership

By Ghaila Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A European Union (EU) official Tuesday concluded a 24-hour visit to Jordan aimed at reviewing EU-Jordan relations as well as the British Presidency's plans for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched at the November 1995 Barcelona Conference.

The EU Presidency Coordinator for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Richard Edis told reporters on Tuesday that the union was pleased "with Jordan's assessment of the Barcelona process" that covers cooperation in three dimensions: political and security; economic and financial; and social, including cultural and human relations.

"We were very struck by Jordan's positive assessment of the Barcelona Process," said Mr. Edis, whose country assumed the EU presidency on January 1, 1998.

Jordan and the EU signed an association agreement in Brussels in November 1997 with the aim of enhancing trade relations in preparation for the creation of a free trade area by the year 2010.

Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil

Ammari Tuesday met with the European official and discussed the challenges posed by the association agreement as well as Jordan's needs for further financial and technical assistance from the EU for the rehabilitation of potential industries in the country.

"We agreed that there is more work to be done to rehabilitate key industries which have a value added," Dr. Ammari told the Jordan Times.

A European mission visited Jordan in December to help Jordan identify key sectors in which the EU could extend its financial and technical assistance.

The mission had voiced the EU's commitment to continue supporting Jordan but stressed the importance of identifying key sectors for development in order to utilise the European financial aid allocated to the year 1999 in the most efficient manner.

The European aid for 1999 has not yet been announced. On the Middle East peace process, Mr. Edis said the EU has a well coordinated position, and any further stalemate in the peace talks "should not be seen as fatal to the Barcelona process."

The British Ambassador to Jordan, Christopher Battiscombe told reporters that the EU seeks to work closely with the United States to push the peace process forward.

The EU is not seeking "competition with the U.S. We want to have an influence in the peace process," said the ambassador.

He added that the EU is the main economic contributor to the region, and has exerted "exceptional effort to help the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)."

The PNA received a total of \$1.8 billion in European grants and loans since 1993.

But Mr. Battiscombe said although the PNA receives regular EU financial and technical assistance, the Palestinian territories are suffering from economic regression.

The EU wants to see "obstacles hindering the development of the Palestinian economy being removed," Mr. Battiscombe said.

Mr. Edis, who is touring Middle Eastern and North African capitals, today leaves for Damascus and Beirut.

## Moroccan firms question water, power concession

RABAT (R) — Morocco's General Confederation of Businesses (CGEM) questioned Monday a 30-year water and power concession to be granted to a Spanish-Portuguese consortium for Rabat and two neighbouring towns.

"We recall once again the need to let competition play its role, by resorting to tenders with the obligation to allow, in total transparency, national technical ability and financial capacities take part in all delegated management of public services," CGEM said in its latest bulletin.

The business association had earlier raised questions over the granting of a similar concession to a French company for power and water in Casablanca.

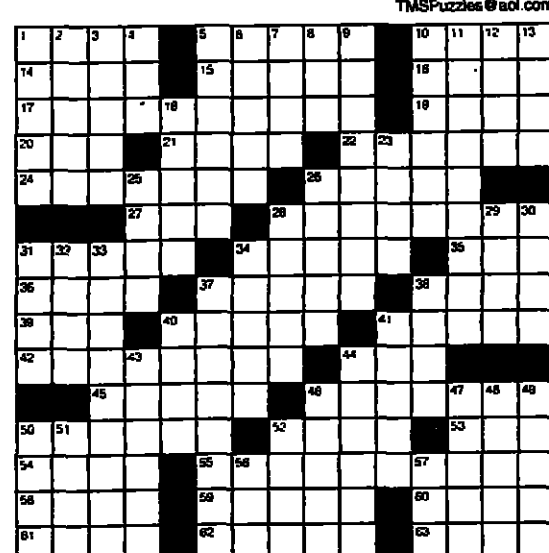
CGEM, which said had heard of the imminence of the accord through the media, "reaffirms its total availability to bring once again its expertise to technical and financial evaluation of aspects of the contract plan to better take into account the requirements of competitiveness in Morocco's productive sector."

### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

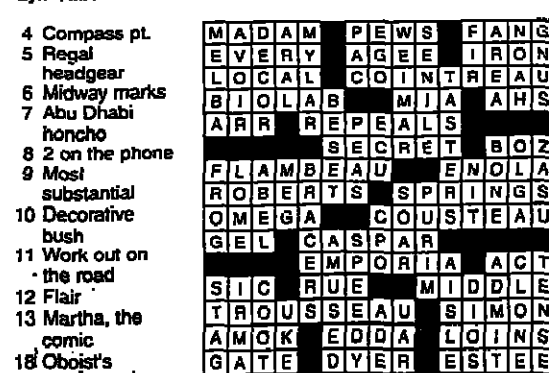
#### ACROSS

- 1 Beatnik abodes
- 5 Coffee enhancement
- 10 Mimic
- 14 Wallace and Whirley
- 15 Cuban dance
- 16 Author of "Nana"
- 17 Work out at the gym
- 19 On vacation
- 20 Mass, cape
- 21 Pitcher
- 22 Greek goddess of the moon
- 24 Adds yeast
- 26 Distance runner
- 27 Wynn and Koch
- 28 Teetered
- 31 Parakeet enclosures
- 34 Blaspheme
- 35 Curb-side quaff
- 36 Olfactory stimulant
- 37 For rent, in London
- 38 Gymnast
- 39 Hoolihan's rank abbr.
- 40 Parents
- 41 Already claimed
- 42 NYC street
- 44 Dampen
- 45 Broad smiles
- 46 Drive-in servers
- 50 Rationalises
- 52 Rocky crags
- 53 Finger sign
- 54 Kingsley, the writer
- 55 Work out in the yard
- 58 Over with
- 59 Muse of lyric poetry
- 60 Bread spread
- 61 Tired feet
- 62 Twangy
- 63 Belgian river

- #### DOWN
- 1 Piano control
  - 2 Home
  - 3 Ross or Rigg

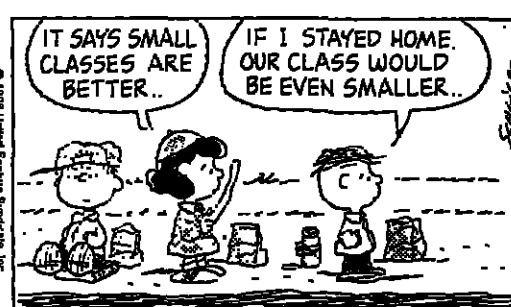
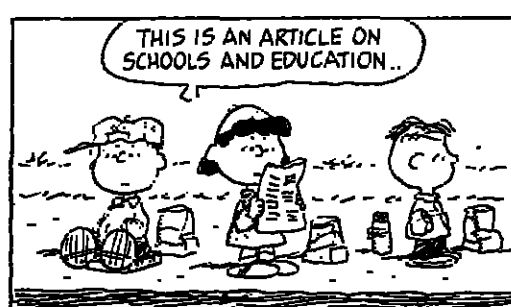


By Mary E. Brindamour  
Lynn, MA

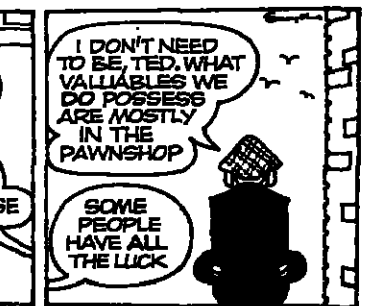
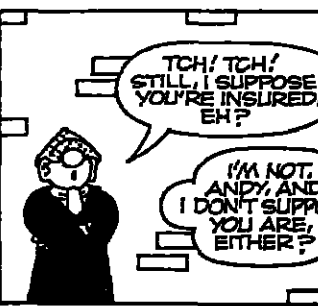


- 4 Compass pt.
- 5 Regal headgear
- 6 Midway marks
- 7 Abu Dhabi honcho
- 8 2 on the phone
- 9 Most substantial
- 10 Decorative bush
- 11 Work out on the road
- 12 Fair
- 13 Martha, the comic
- 18 Object's purchase
- 23 What can I say?
- 25 Swerve
- 26 Paris moms
- 28 Sullenly aloof
- 29 Advantage
- 30 College bigwig
- 31 Hair splitter
- 32 Jewish month
- 33 Work out on the track
- 34 Soft drinks
- 37 Villagers
- 38 Solemn vow
- 40 Bank letters
- 41 To the point
- 43 Gets up
- 44 Pop Art master
- 46 Terra
- 47 Roundish shapes
- 48 Tyrant flycatcher
- 49 Spanish man
- 50 Alan or Diane
- 51 Melville's "Types" sequel
- 52 "brillig"
- 56 Mouths
- 57 Actress Myrna

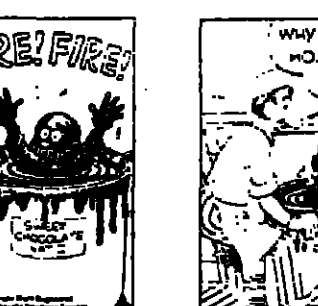
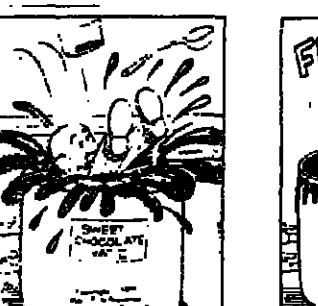
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"When I was a boy my parents neglected me, but not nearly enough."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PENTI

YAWLB

RELK

CILAT

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: ITCHY WAGON PETITE TRUHM

Answer: Persons of standing spend a lot of time doing this — SITTING







## Jordan's Davis Cup team returns with fourth place finish

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Davis Cup team returned home Tuesday after taking part in the Asia/Oceania Zone Group 4 Davis Cup matches which concluded in Bangladesh Sunday.

With only the top two of the six-team group promoted to Group 3 Jordan failed to gain promotion after finishing a disappointing fourth in the group including Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Brunei, and hosts Bangladesh.

Jordan's only wins came over Brunei and the UAE with 3-0 scores. They lost to Bahrain 2-1, to Iraq 3-0, and Bangladesh 2-1.

The Kingdom's team was relegated to Group 4 in 1995 and failed to gain promotion during the last two years after playing in higher level Groups 2 and 3 previously.

The Davis Cup competition is played on a round-robin format with two singles and one doubles match for each team daily.

Countries participating in the annual team tournament are classified into

five groups with the world's top teams like the United States, France and Germany playing in the prestigious World Group. The other countries are divided into four regional groups.

Jordan's team comprised top ranked brothers Faris and Laith Azzouni, Ahmad Al Hadid, and Yazid Nuseirat.

While 15-year-old Nuseirat made his Davis Cup debut, Faris and Hadid were part of the team last year, when Jordan also failed to gain promotion.

The team has had a consistent training schedule under the supervision of head coach Katherin Hussein, formerly Iraq's top ranked player, and Ahmad Oreibi since September.

However, Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) vice-president Talal Maher acknowledged the lack of serious match practice prior to the teams departure.

"Friendly ties against other teams in Amman or abroad could not be arranged for a host of reasons. We would have preferred to have been better prepared," he said.

During the past four years the JTF has been trying to return the team to its previous Group 2 ranking but has

been unable to maintain a consistent and experienced lineup of players to be prepared all-year round.

The Davis Cup Zonal Group 3 and 4 competition included 59 nations divided into the American Zone Group 3 & 4, Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 & 4, Euro/African Zone Group 3 & 4.

Competing countries in this zonal competition include:

Antigua/Barbuda, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Bermuda, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, OECS, Honduras, U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Lucia, Antilles, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Brunei, and Bangladesh. Ghana, Estonia, Madagascar, Cyprus, Greece, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kenya, Togo, Nigeria, Turkey, Malta, San Marino, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Tunisia, Armenia, Benin, Uganda, Djibouti, Botswana, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Algeria, Liechtenstein, Zambia, Iceland

## Rafter longs for that 'relaxed feeling'

ANTWERP (AFP) — U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter made a winning return to the ATP tour here on Monday in his 1998 European indoor debut at the \$1 million European Community Championship — but admitted that he was not feeling as relaxed as he had playing tennis last year.

The Australian, ranked No. 3 in the world, put all thoughts of his third-round loss at home last month in Melbourne behind him in a 6-2, 7-6 (10/8) first-round win over Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

The 25-year-old Australian, who was notching up his first victory over Boetsch who had beaten him in 1995 and in last year's Davis Cup first round in Australia, was not happy with the way he had played even though he was plying with a new racket model.

"I was very nervous. I got tight. I didn't like the way that I played today," Rafter said.

"I've got to sit down and think about my mental attitude. Last year, I was relaxed and winning matches almost without thinking. I want to find that feeling again."

"I'm back in Europe playing on what is not my best surface. This is a good time to pick up my game. I need to go and enjoy myself, that's when I play my best tennis," he added.

Rafter, seeded second behind Australian Open champion Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, next plays the winner of a match between Swede Magnus Gustafsson and Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

Rafter took 1 hour 34 minutes to beat Boetsch, who has slipped to 103 in the world and who has won three ATP titles — one more than Rafter.

The Australian wasted two match points in the second-set tiebreaker with a netted forehand and a long return. Boetsch returned into the net on a set point of his own.

Rafter finally wrapped up victory on his third chance, letting a Boetsch return float out.

Rafter needs a solid showing here and next week in London to establish his credentials as a top five contender. He dropped from second in the world to third after a third-round upset loss at the Australian Open to Alberto Berasategui of Spain.

Guillaume Raoux of France also came through on Monday at the Sportpaleis, defeating Francisco Claver of Spain 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-2 while America's sole competitor Jeff Tarango beat Belgian wild card entry Dick Norman 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Swede Magnus Larsson had little trouble with German qualifier Marc-Kevin Goellner, reaching the second round 6-2, 6-1.



Steffi Graf

## Graf makes victorious return — in doubles

HANOVER (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf made a winning return to competitive tennis here on Monday after an absence of 10 months winning her first round doubles match at the WTA tournament.

The 28-year-old German, who hasn't played since undergoing a knee operation shortly after last year's French Open, combined with compatriot Barbara Rittner to overcome another German duo of Meike Babel and

Wiltrud Probst, 6-3, 6-1.

Graf, who has slipped to 49 in the world although she has a protected ranking of 3, had tears of joy in her eyes after the 67 minute match as she received a standing ovation from the 3,700 spectators.

"I felt free and really enjoyed playing. I tried not to cry but it was too difficult", Graf said.

"Eight months out is a long time and I was very nervous. But now I've taken the first step. My knee is in a good

state and the doctor did a really good job," she added.

Graf, who is seeded two here has a first-round bye and will face either Austrian Barbara Paulus or her compatriot Andrea Glass for a place in the quarter-finals, had hoped to return at last week's Paris Indoor Open — but she had to retire at the 11th hour after sustaining a calf strain in training.

## African Nations Cup McCarthy hits fabulous four as S. Africa advance

BOBO-DIOULASSO (AFP) — Benni McCarthy scored an amazing four goals in South Africa's 4-1 thrashing of Namibia in Group C of the African Nations Cup here on Monday as they qualified for the quarter-finals.

The 20-year-old Ajax striker, who hit the headlines in the opening game after clearly punching Angola's Aurelio but was not sent off, was noticeable for his footballing ability this time.

And what clinical finishing it was as McCarthy became the youngest player in the history of the African Nations Cup finals to hit a hat-trick.

South Africa finished second to group C winners Ivory Coast who beat Angola 5-2 in their game in Ouagadougou. South Africa also ended a run of nine matches without a win since defeating Congo last August to secure one of five places allocated to Africa at the 1998 World Cup in France.

The match was sweet revenge for South Africa after losing 3-2 to Namibia in the southern African football championship last month.

A surprise in the South African camp was the omission of defender Mark Fish, who has tonsillitis, and keeper Brian Balozi, who has a knee injury. Bloemfontein Celtic's 23-year-old Simon Gopane therefore made his debut between the posts and Sundowns defender Themba Mnguni came in for Fish.

Left back David Nyathi had South Africa's first chance as he dribbled past two men but his shot from six yards went straight at keeper Fillemont Kanalelo.

Just as an announcement was being made in the Omnisport stadium here that Ivory Coast had gone 1-0 ahead against Angola in their match at Ouagadougou, South Africa scored.

McCarthy fired home from just inside the box to give South Africa the upper hand in the eighth minute, and three minutes later they were 2-0 ahead.

From just outside the penalty area, McCarthy



South Africa's Helman Mkhalele (R) fights for the ball against Namibian Simon Vutoni (L) February 16, during the African Nations Cup soccer tournament. South Africa beat Namibia 4-1 (Reuters photo)

struck a clean right foot shot to beat keeper Kanalelo, diving to his right.

In the 18th minute, McCarthy finally completed his hat-trick after being fed by Shoes Moshoeshoe, and he added a fourth in the 20th minute as the game became a one-man exhibition of scoring.

Striker Phil Masinga limped off eight minutes before the break, possibly with a recurrence of his hamstring problem, and was replaced by Pollen Ndlangana.

The Namibian side of the field was hardly used at all in the last few minutes of the half as South Africa completely dominated.

However Namibia had something to cheer in the second half when Simon Vutoni beat Gopane from 20 yards in the 68th minute.

Resten Morgane said afterwards: "I think a lack of concentration in the first 20 minutes cost us the game but I don't think we were outclassed. I think if my suspended defenders Sandro de Gouveia and Bimbo Tjihero had been playing we would not have conceded all those goals in the first 20 minutes."

South African coach Jono Sono said afterwards: "We missed our chances in the first two games, but today God decided to smile on us

and that was the difference — we managed to put the ball in the back of the net four times and we could have scored five."

### Tunisia ease into quarter-finals

World Cup finalists Tunisia came from behind to grab the win they required here on Monday to ease into the African Nations quarter-finals beating Togo 3-1.

The Tunisians, who are in World Cup Group G along with England, Colombia and Romania, scored through Ziad Temecani, who levelled the score after Komlan Assignon had given Togo the lead from the penalty spot. Mehdi Ben Slimane gave them the lead and Hassen Gabsi sealed the win in the 79th minute.

Temecani equalised in the 9th minute following an excellent sweeping team move then Slimane, who plays for Freiburg in Germany, headed home the second two minutes later and Gabsi added the third, following a counter-attack, from close range.

The Tunisians should have won by more but Temecani failed to convert when in a one-on-one battle with the Togo keeper Wake

Nibombe and Bechir Sahbani missed a penalty. Tunisia, who finished top of their group despite losing their opening match to Ghana, will play hosts Burkina Faso in Saturday's quarter-final here.

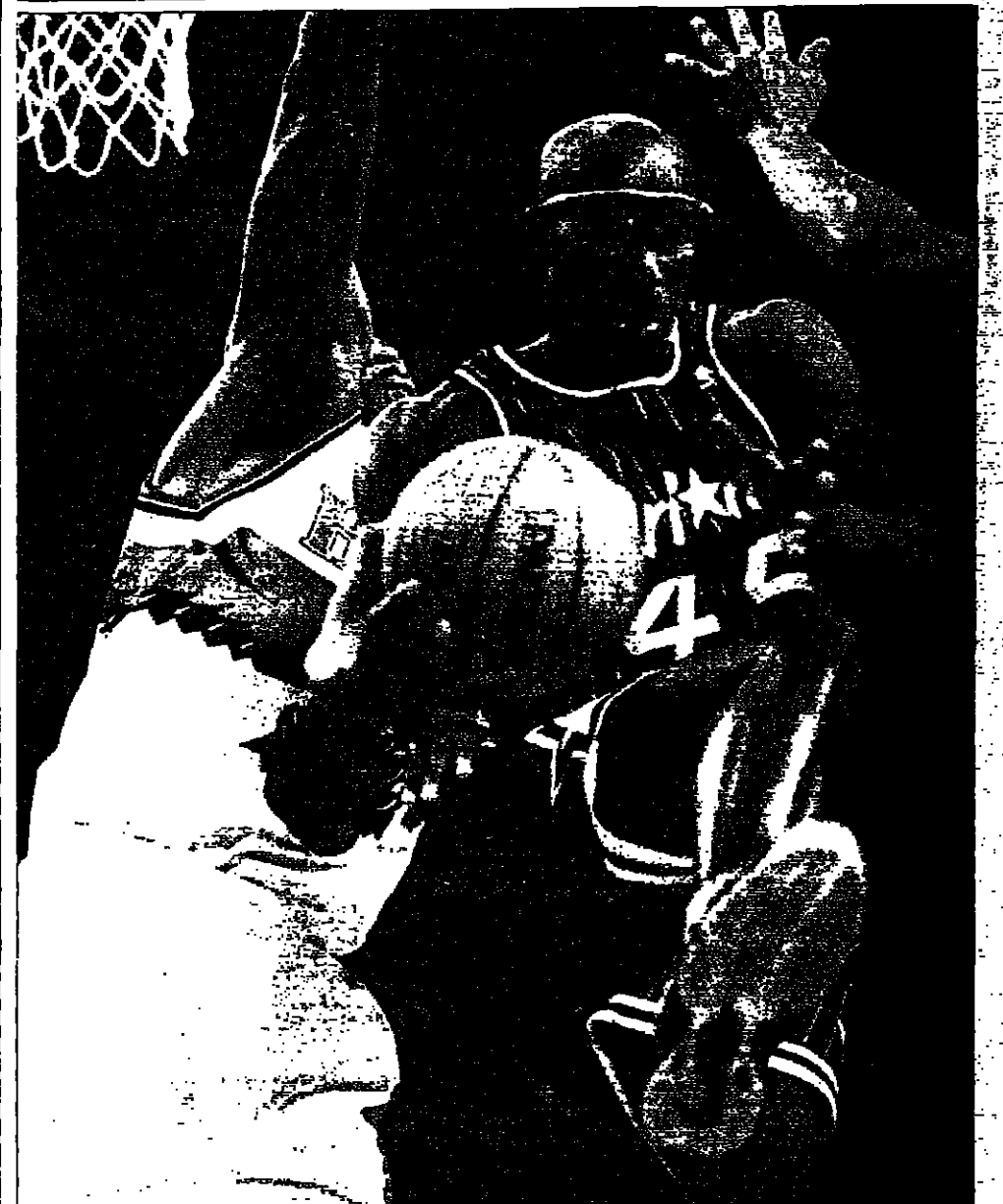
### Congo eliminate Ghana

Ghana, four times African Nations Cup holders and one of the favourites here, were eliminated from the tournament after losing 1-0 to the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group B on Monday.

Dismissed as no-hopers before the 16-nation event kicked off nine days ago, the Congolese snatched victory and a place in the quarter-finals with a 75th-minute goal from Mundaba Kisombe.

It was a sad end for midfielder Abedi 'Pele' Ayew, who announced last week that he would quit international football following the cup, which his country last won 16 years ago.

Like his team-mates, Pele, who won the 1993 European Cup with Marseille, never rose above the ordinary and the Black Stars looked likely to score only in the 40th minute.



Orlando Magic Charles Outlaw (R) knocks the Atlanta Hawks Dikembe Mutombo out of his way as he drives through the Hawks defence toward the basket in second quarter action February 16 (Reuters photo)

## Rockets, Jazz win

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone had 23 points and 11 rebounds as the Utah Jazz won their fifth straight game 96-90.

The Jazz announced during the second quarter that they had acquired center Rony Seikaly from the Orlando Magic for Greg

### RESULTS

New Jersey	103	Milwaukee	92
Orlando	85	Atlanta	81
Houston	121	L.A. Clippers	99
Utah	96	Charlotte	90

Foster, Chris Morris and a 1998 first-round draft pick. Fans at the Delta Center roared with approval.

Utah survived a big fourth quarter by Charlotte's Glen Rice, who scored 15 of his 30 points in the final 3:04.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 63144	CINEMA TEL: 63144	CINEMA TEL: 5690238	CINEMA TEL: 5677420	CINEMA TEL: 079 33400	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 2	GALLERIA 1	NOW ON DAILY
	Pierce Brosnan as James Bond	Sherry Long ... in	Martin Lawrence ... in	CONCORD "1"	ABDOUN	ABDOUN	THE GOVERNMENT
	007...TOMORROW NEVER DIES	THE BRADY BUNCH	NOTHING TO LOSE	Adel Imam & Yusra ... in	I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER	Brad Pitt...in	IN THE SERVICE
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:30, 3:30, 12:30	RISALA ILA AL WALI (ARABIC)	Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET	OF PEOPLE
			GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE	CONCORD "2"	MORNING SHOWS 101 DALMATIANS		Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
			5:00 p.m. only	MR. BEAN			For reservations call: 640155, 625155
				Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30			



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ly good job," she added.  
Graf, who is second...  
here has a first-round by...  
will race either Ann...  
Barbara Paulus or her...  
trist Andrea Glas for...  
in the quarter-final...  
hoped to return at Les...  
Paris (Indoor Open) - he...  
had to retire at the 11th...  
after sustaining a calf...  
training.



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Utah survived a big fourth  
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dice, who scored 15 of his  
0 points in the final 3:04

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Canadian figure skater Elvis Stojko folds his hands as he poses in front of an altar in a Buddhist temple during the XVIII Nagano Winter Olympics. Stojko took the silver medal in the men's figure skating competition (Reuters photo)

## CBS take an Olympic battering

NAGANO (AFP) — American television network CBS has taken a hammering in the Olympic ratings battle.

The company paid \$375 million for the 18th Winter Olympics but the number of viewers has fallen so low it may have to start paying back money to advertisers, according to one CBS source.

The lack of controversy like the showdown between figure skaters Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan in 1994 and the lack of American medals has diminished interest, industry executives say.

On Monday, the rating was 16.7 per cent, the CBS source said.

That was around a third less than the 25.2 percent of American households that tuned into the Lillehammer Games in 1994 when the world was gripped by the Harding-Kerrigan skating war.

The number of viewers is also 12 per cent down on figures for Albertville in 1992.

CBS had been counting on an average of 19.2 per cent for the 17 days of the Games which end Sunday. But the average over the first week was 16.6 per cent and the company's contracts force it to reimburse money to advertisers if the rate goes below 19 per cent.

"Clearly there is not the enthusiasm we were counting on," said the CBS source.

The American public is turned off by the Winter Olympics, according to Harvey Schiller, head of sports programming for

Turner Network Television. He said ratings for Turner's exclusive cable coverage were also poorer than expected.

Nagano has seen stories such as Canadian snowboarder Russ Rehaglati failing a drug test for marijuana use, but holding on to his gold medal after a successful appeal.

But Schiller commented: "There is no real controversy at these Games — good or bad. Skating was a big story in 1994."

The bad weather and postponement of events has also hit scheduling while the United States has only two gold medals so far.

CBS, which has lost the Olympic broadcasting rights to NBC from Sydney 2000, is counting on the women's ice skating — with the main battle between Tara Lipinski, 15, and 17-year-old Michelle Kwan — to boost viewer appeal.

Japanese television companies are having a bumper Olympics, however, on the back of the four gold medals. Japanese had never won more than one gold medal at previous Winter Games.

"We are really happy, things are going a lot better than we thought they would," said Kazuhiro Uemura, an official for the NHK public broadcasting service.

NHK paid 75 per cent of the 4.5 billion yen (\$36 million) broadcasting fee from Japan for the Winter Games.

The rest has been split between five private channels.

## Japan wins team jump in Nagano

NAGANO (AP) —

Masahiko Harada finally redeemed himself with the longest ski jump in Olympic history to secure team gold for Japan on Tuesday. The German women's Alpine team atoned for a bad start with a sweep of the combined.

Gianni Romme led the second sweep of the day, a Dutch speedskating 1-2-3 in the 10,000, with the 5,000 Olympic champion winning a second gold in world-record time.

Seven-time world champion Canada, however, was not equal to the occasion of the first Olympic gold medal game in women's ice hockey. It fell 3-1 to the perennial runner-up United States. Finland beat China 4-1 for the bronze.

Downhill champion Katja Seizinger staved off the slalom specialists in constant snow to clinch the combined event, her second gold in as many days. The 25-year-old joined Swiss Vreni Schneider as the only women with three Alpine golds.

Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, the defending champion and gold-medal favourite, fell in the first slalom run, making room for the German 1-2-3.

Harada threw the huge burden of failure off his shoulder with a record-equaling jump of 137 meters. Kazuyoshi Funaki then accomplished what Harada could not do four years ago in Lillehammer — finish off brilliant teamwork with one final solid jump.

"I did it, I did it," Harada shouted afterward, sobbing uncontrollably as a crowd of 50,000 cheered. Harada cost his team an almost certain victory at the 1994 Games when he botched his final jump, dropping the team to a silver.

Funaki got a taste of the same anxiety — the nation expecting him to deliver gold on the climactic leap in a snowstorm at the Hakuba Hill.

"Now I know how Harada felt in the last Olympics," he said. "I felt enormous pressure on my entire body, really, but the result was the gold. It's great."

The victory made Funaki the most successful male athlete in the Nagano games so far with two golds and a silver. The German jumping team won the silver, far off the Japanese total, and



Germany's silver medalist Martina Ertl (L), her gold medal winning teammate Katja Seizinger (C) and bronze medalist Hilde Gerg wave flowers during the awarding ceremony of the Olympic Alpine skiing women's combined event February 17 (Reuters photo)

Austria took the bronze.

With the Alpine combined sweep, Germany took a big lead in the medal standings. It now has 22 overall, including seven gold. Norway remained at 16, with five gold, and Russia was third with 13 medals, but a leading eight golds.

Austria was fourth with a dozen medals, the Netherlands rode Tuesday's sweep up into a tie for fifth position, with 10 medals. Canada also had 10 after its ice hockey silver.

Ski jumping gave Japan a fourth gold in Nagano — more victories than it had won in all previous Winter Games combined. The host country was tied for seventh with the United States and Finland with eight total medals. The Americans had three golds after winning the women's hockey.

Fog and snow combined to wipe out the men's biathlon relay. The event will be rerun on Wednesday.

After becoming the only skier to defend an Olympic downhill title on Monday, Seizinger had two nearly flawless slalom runs Tuesday to keep her teammates Martina Ertl and Hilde Gerg at bay.

"I did not expect a couple of wins here," Seizinger said. "I did not expect my victory and the top three finish by our team."

The formidable German women's alpine team had been expected to deliver a load of medals and it had come under criticism after

falling to get any in last week's Super-G.

Wiberg's error opened up the door for the Germans. She fell five gates before the finish of the first slalom run.

"I straddled a gate, that's a normal mistake in slalom," she said. "When I came down, I saw the finish line too early maybe."

The finish line had never come that early for any 10,000 speedskater when Romme crossed it in 13 minutes, 15.33 seconds, clapping skating an incredible 15.22 seconds off the Mark Norway's Johann Olav Koss set at the Lillehammer games four years ago.

Dutch compatriot Bob De Jong finished second and Rintje Ritsma took the bronze.

"This is just the most beautiful thing you can do in your life, and to find ourselves with three Dutchmen on the podium only tops that," said Romme.

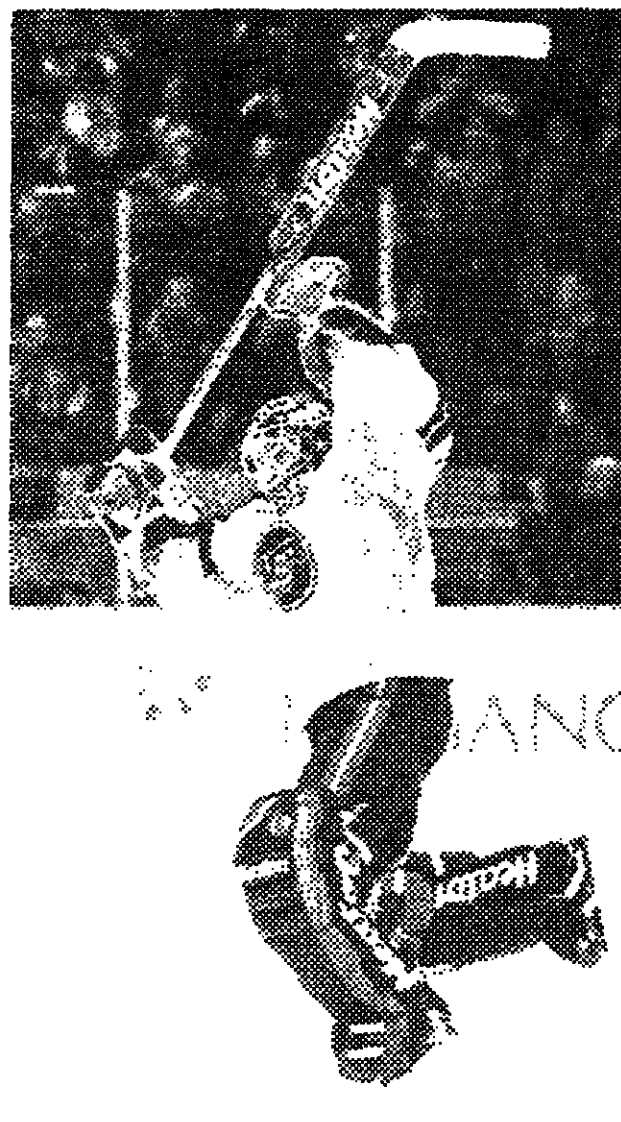
Other Dutch winners here have included Ido Postma in the men's 1,000 and Marianne Timmer, who won the women's 1,500 Monday and, like Romme, set a world record.

Sweden's ice hockey team has lost defenseman Ulf Samuelsson for the rest of the Olympic hockey tournament because of a citizenship conflict but won't have to forfeit its two victories, the International Ice Hockey Federation decided. Samuelsson holds both Swedish and U.S. passports, and thus isn't eligible to play for Sweden.

The court for the arbitration of sport later upheld the ruling, denying Sweden's appeal to have Samuelsson reinstated and the Czech Republic's to have Sweden's victory points annulled.

The result is that the quarter-final matchups will remain unchanged — the Czech Republic vs. United States, Canada vs. Kazakhstan, Russia vs. Belarus, and Sweden vs. Finland.

Short-track speed skating also was to begin Tuesday with gold-medal races in the men's 1,000 metres and women's 3,000 relay. The strongest teams include South Korea, China and North Korea, which skipped the 1994 Olympics.



United States goalie Sarah Tueting jumps into the air in celebration after beating Canada to win the gold medal in the final of the Nagano Olympic Games at Big Hat ice arena February 17. USA beat Canada 3-1 (Reuters photo)

### GOREN BRIDGE

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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4A1097632 3A 962 4AK
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1: Pass 1A Pass
- 2: Pass 2 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- Q2 - North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4B73 7A10753 7 4A432
- Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two spades. What do you respond?
- Q3 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 410763 1Q852 1A913 4S
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1A Pass 2A Pass
- Q4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4A48 1063 1Q884 4K48
- Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- Q5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4732 1086 1AKJ4 4KJ4
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1: 1A 7
- 2: 2A 7
- What do you respond?
- Q6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- 4A4J74 7K 1A10732 4S
- Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three clubs. What action do you take?

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JORDAN



# Israel complains of low security ties with Jordan

Combined Agency Dispatches

JORDAN HAS cut back security cooperation with Israel since Mossad agents tried to kill an Islamist on Jordanian soil, Israel's ambassador to Jordan said on Tuesday.

"Security relations are continuing on one plane or another, but on a level that is a little bit lower than what we would like or what was," Ambassador Oded Eran told Israel Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent assassins of the Mossad secret service to Amman last September to take out Hamas official Khaled Misha'al after the Islamist group killed 21 Israelis in two Jerusalem suicide attacks.

An official Israeli inquiry into the botched assassination attempt cleared Mr. Netanyahu on Monday of any blame and did not rule out future operations on Jordanian soil.

"I admit the [security] relations are not as full and complete as they were before the Misha'al affair and that we have to find a way to renew them," the ambassador said.

Mr. Netanyahu said Tuesday that Israel would continue to strike out at "terrorists."

Speaking on Israeli radio, Mr. Netanyahu defended the spy agency Mossad's attempt to murder Khaled Misha'al.

"We considered the obstacles before taking our decision, and reached the conclusion that there can be no sanctuary for terrorists," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"Every country poses problems, and we must continue to act wherever it is necessary," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu refused to say if he ruled out further Israeli operations inside Jordan, which was infuriated by the September attack and is reportedly demanding the resignation of the

Mossad chief as the price for resuming security cooperation.

The agents injected Mr. Misha'al with a poison but were arrested after a scuffle with his bodyguard. Under pressure from King Hussein, Israel provided the antidote to save Mr. Misha'al's life.

Interior Minister Nathir Rashid had told news media that his government found the inquiry's findings unacceptable and that it did not help to advance relations, Mr. Eran said. The King has yet to respond to the report.

Jordan condemned Monday Israel's insistence on fighting terror outside its borders after Mossad's botched attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman last year.

"This is a negative sign which we will never accept," Mr. Rashid told the Jordan Times the day after the report into the fiasco cleared Mr. Netanyahu of any blame.

## Palestinians allege new settler campaign to take W. Bank land

NABLUS (AFP)

Palestinians in villages near the West Bank city of Nablus accused Jewish settlers Tuesday of starting a new campaign to confiscate land while international attention is focused on the Gulf crisis.

Israelis from the settlements of Izhar and Baraka have in the past two days bulldozed and fenced off Palestinian land from nearby villages, the Palestinians told AFP.

Hashim Suleiman of the village of Ein-Bus said Izhar settlers bulldozed dozens of hectares (acres) of his land on Monday and have uprooted 200 olive trees in the past two days.

"When I heard they were on my land, I went with my sons and villagers to stop them," Mr. Suleiman said. "The settlers opened fire on us but we managed to detain the bulldozer driver."

When the Israeli army intervened, the settlers were forced from the land and the driver was released, Mr. Suleiman

### Israel destroys part of Palestinian home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army destroyed two-thirds of a Palestinian house in Arab east Jerusalem Tuesday just as its owner obtained a court order preventing the demolition. Anwar Nabuli told AFP he rushed back from court with the order only to find that most of his house — which is home to 12 people — was in ruins. He said the soldiers who carried out the demolition knew he would obtain the order but continued the work anyway. The army did not immediately comment on the action. Ignoring the rubble around him, Mr. Nabuli began to return his furniture into the remaining rooms each left with only three walls. At least 60 Palestinian structures have been destroyed in the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem since August in an Israeli campaign to demolish houses built without permits, Palestinians say. Israel rarely issues building permits, forcing them to build illegally.

Settlers have in the past put mobile homes on his land but had been forced off after Mr. Suleiman secured a court order against them. But they have since returned, he added.

Other settlers bulldozed dozens of hectares of Palestinian land to build a road between Baraka and Yizhar and built a fence around a large plot of land with the intention

of confiscating it, Palestinians said.

The Palestinians said they feared settlers had stepped up confiscation of land in the hope that their actions would be ignored as international attention focuses on the U.S. threat to attack Iraq if it does not give U.N. arms inspectors unfettered access to alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction.

## Hamas vows to attack Israel if U.S. strikes Iraq

GAZA (R) — The armed wing of the militant Islamist group Hamas has vowed to carry out attacks against Israel if the United States takes military action against Iraq.

"We will not stand with our hands tied if the Iraqi people and their children or any Arab or Muslim people are subjected to U.S. military attacks and we will answer this in our special way by hitting the Zionist depth and its monstrous entity," the Izzeddin Al Qassam Brigades said in a statement made available to Reuters on Tuesday.

"We consider this a continuation of our holy struggle against the Zionist enemy. This is serious, not a joke, and you will realise the truth of this soon," the statement said. Hamas, which opposes peace deals between PLO and Israel, has carried out several suicide bombings that have killed scores of Israelis.

"The United States draws out its foreign policy with the mindset of a cowboy to defend its so-called strategic interests. It has no principles, morals, or any humanitarian considerations," the Izzeddin Al Qassam brigades said.

"Proof of this is its position on Iraq and its continued sponsorship of the Zionist enemy and its monstrous entity at the expense of our Palestinian rights and our pure land. We hope Arab and Muslim people will awaken in the face of U.S. terrorism," the statement added.

Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin said he had not heard of the statement from the group's military wing.

"The [Hamas] political wing rejects a U.S. attack on Iraq but we don't decide the plans of the military wing and we don't know what it is planning," he told Reuters.

## Belarus, Iran to sign weapons deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Belarus is preparing a deal to sell Iran military equipment and spare parts for tanks. The Washington Times reported Tuesday.

Citing CIA sources, the Times said Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko would sign the secret agreement when he travels next month to Iran.

U.S. officials told the paper they feared Belarus would become a conduit for Russian weapons technology to Iran.

"There is little distinction between Russia and Belarus and it's clear Belarus is acting as a Russian proxy in this," a U.S. defence official told the Times.

The Belarus-Iran pact would include sales of tank engines and spare parts, and tank-related technology that would allow Iran to maintain its T-55, T-62 and T-72 tanks, the paper said.



WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY VOTES: An Indian woman casts her ballot in a former girls' school that was transformed into a polling station on the first day of staggered national polls in India on Monday. The elections are expected to produce a hung parliament for the second time (AFP photo)

## Millions vote in Indian elections amidst violence

NEW DELHI (AFP)

Around 125 million Indians, guarded by tens of thousands of security officers, voted Monday as the world's largest democracy returned to the elections for the second time in as many years.

Some 250 million of India's 600 million voters were eligible to take part in the first of four phases of staggered balloting that ends March 7.

Monday's voting was marred by at least 22 deaths in bomb attacks on security and poll personnel and in armed clashes between rival political activists in the country's east, officials said.

Up to 20 people including six troopers and poll officials were killed in the eastern state of Bihar, where 1,100 were arrested and voting cancelled in scores of constituencies following attacks.

Hindu nationalist spokesman M. Venkaiah Naidu said there "seems to be large-scale rigging and booth-capturing in Bihar," claiming more than 200 polling booths were "captured" there.

Bihar, regarded as India's most lawless state, however, reported a voter turnout of about 60 per cent.

Violence marred elections in Assam, one of the seven northeastern states plagued by separatist guerrilla movements, and in the southern Andhra Pradesh, which is troubled by moist insurgency.

Sporadic clashes also occurred in other southern states, while in the Indian capital rival candidates accused each other of large scale vote fraud.

Chief Election

### Fraud prompts new polling in 500 areas

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Election Commission Tuesday ordered fresh voting in more than 500 polling centres in the eastern state of Bihar after Monday's balloting there was marred by violence and fraud. It announced that voting would be held again on Feb. 19 and 24. Bihar is known as India's most lawless region. New polls were also ordered in some areas in Madhepur, the home constituency of Bihar's former Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, following allegations by rivals that his party had rigged voting there.

Commissioner M.S. Gill, however, described Monday's balloting as a "huge success."

The country, crippled by political instability in recent years, is set to elect its fifth government since early 1996. The Hindu nationalists, accused of sectarianism by their rivals, are expected to top the polls but fall short of a majority.

The elections were thrown open by Sonia Gandhi, widow of assassinated former Premier Rajiv Gandhi, whose campaign for his once-dominant Congress has captured the public imagination.

Analysts say a new anti-nationalist coalition, similar to the outgoing government, could return to power.

Officials said balloting for 222 of 545 parliamentary seats began slowly at 300,000 polling stations across 15 of India's 25 states.

Early estimates put the turnout at just over 50 per cent.

There is further voting on Feb. 22, 28 and March 7, with counting starting on March 2. Hundreds of thousands of police and security personnel were on duty Monday, with the military remained on standby.

The security issue was

highlighted by more than 100 deaths in the run-up to the polls.

Forty-eight people died Saturday in serial bombings near a poll rally in southern Tamil Nadu, due to be addressed by Lal Krishna Advani, president of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party).

Late opinion polls have predicted the Congress — the party of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi — and the outgoing multi-party United Front coalition could return to power together after falling out just three months ago.

The Congress agreed to back the front coalition after polls in 1996, to keep the BJP sidelined. An uneasy 18-month cohabitation followed before the Congress withdrew support.

Both former allies, however, detest the BJP more than they dislike each other. They claim the nationalists will replace India's secular constitution with a theocracy.

K.R. Narayanan, meanwhile, ended 50 years of tradition on Monday when he became the first Indian president to vote in national elections here, officials said.

## Lieutenant Looney makes fool of British air force

LONDON (R) — Security is being reviewed at an air force training base in southwest England after a Briton calling himself Lieutenant Looney and sporting plastic medals spent five days there posing as an American naval officer. Police said Tuesday they had questioned restaurant doorman Mark Looney, 30, about his stay at the Royal Air Force base in St. Mawgan, Cornwall, where he entertained officers with tales of his imaginary exploits in Bosnia. No action is being taken against him, Mr. Looney was unmasked as an impostor only when a U.S. officer at the base spotted that one of his medals was plastic.

## Romanians caught short by toilet traffic

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Answering a call of nature in Bucharest is becoming increasingly difficult because corrupt officials are selling the city's public toilets to be turned into bars and kiosks, news reports said Tuesday. WCs, often located in prime locations in the Romanian capital, are highly prized by entrepreneurs, who even include a car salesman selling luxury vehicles from a converted toilet block. Others have been transformed into fast-food outlets, tobacconists and drink stands. One city park toilet is now a popular cafe, according to newspapers reporting anger at the bribe-fuelled toilet traffic.

## U.S. second lady to do photojournalism for the White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) — America's second lady Tipper Gore will travel to Nagano Tuesday where she will do some photojournalism for the White House Web site and USA Today daily. She will be taking snapshots of the Winter Olympics with her digital camera, which she will upload via the Internet to illustrate a column in the daily she will inaugurate on Thursday, her spokeswoman said. Catch her pictures on <http://www.whitehouse.gov>. After the Olympics, Gore plans to post a monthly column on her home page on her travels and issues that interest her.

## Big Apple to honour Pavarotti

NEW YORK (AFP) — The Big Apple will honour Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti on Feb. 23 for his contributions to charity. The opera singer raised \$6 million to build a musical centre in Bosnia that will carry his name, and \$2 million for an anti-leukemia fund in Italy.

## Pankov the elephant dies in mourning

LYON (AFP) — Pankov, a cow elephant at Lyon's Tete d'Or Zoo, may have died of a broken heart, zoo staff said Tuesday. She was in her 50s. Pankov died on Valentine's Day, three weeks after the death of her long-time companion Mako, with whom she had shared a cage. "She had been very emotional since he died," zookeeper Paul Cahour said. "She changed. It was obvious. She was vulnerable." That said, zookeepers linked her death to her advanced age. "It is more reasonable to explain her death was a matter of longevity," Cahour said, as few elephants in captivity reach such an old age.

## Russian palaces next on U.S. list after Iraq — Zhirinovsky

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian ultra-nationalist Deputy Vladimir Zhirinovsky said Tuesday the United States would feel authorised to "inspect the Kremlin's palaces," if Moscow let Washington dictate its terms over Iraq.

"The Americans don't need Iraq. Their goal is to push out the Russians everywhere, and in 10 years they'll impose their policy on us. They'll go and inspect the Kremlin's palaces, like Gorky-9 and Zavidovo," Interfax quoted Mr. Zhirinovsky as saying.

Gorky-9 and Zavidovo are both rural presidential residences just outside Moscow.

Mr. Zhirinovsky returned to Moscow from Baghdad Tuesday after a highly-publicised solidarity visit to Iraq, during which he delivered a shipment of humanitarian aid.

"We didn't see any sign of chemical weapons production," said Mr. Zhirinovsky, who heads the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party. "The Kremlin has warned Washington not to resort to

force in its showdown with Iraq over U.N. weapons inspections. Baghdad has refused to allow military inspectors onto presidential sites, suspected of being used to hide weapons of mass destruction."

Just seconds after President Boris Yeltsin ended a keynote speech to both house of parliament Tuesday, Mr. Zhirinovsky shouted: "Only you can stop that [military strikes]. Russia has sufficient authority to do it."